Chingis Khan
成吉思汗
チンギスハーン
4

[カバーフォト]
COLIN SAMUELS/CTSフォトニカ

Chingis Khan
成吉思汗
チンギスハーン
4

Mitsuteru Yokoyama
横山光輝

覇者の巻

Akita Bunko

チンギスハーン 4

横山光輝

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横山光輝（よこやまみつてる）

本名，横山光照。1934年（昭和9年）6月18日、
兵庫県神戸市須磨区に生まれる。
1954年「音無しの剣」でデビュー。
1956年「鉄人28号」で第一線に躍り出て、
1962年「伊賀の影丸」で不動の地位を確立する。
以来、少年、少女から青年誌まで、
時代、歴史ものからSFに到るまで、
あらゆるジャンルの傑作を数多く生みだしている。
1991年「三国志」で
第20回日本漫画家協会賞優秀賞を受賞。
代表作品「鉄人28号」「伊賀の影丸」「バビル2世」
「マーズ」「その名は101」「チンギスハーン」
「あばれ天童」「おてんば天使」「魔法使いサリー」
「三国志」など多数。

Chingis Khan
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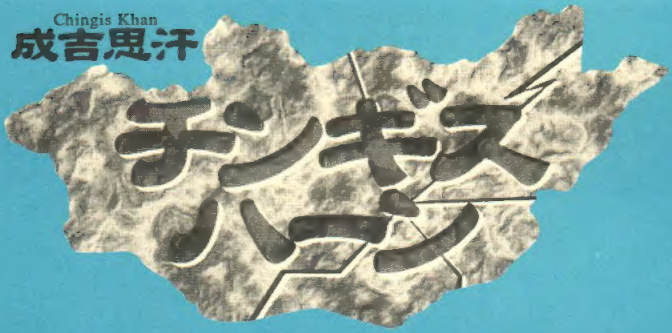

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Volume 4
Lord of the
Wolves

Yokoyama
Mitsuteru

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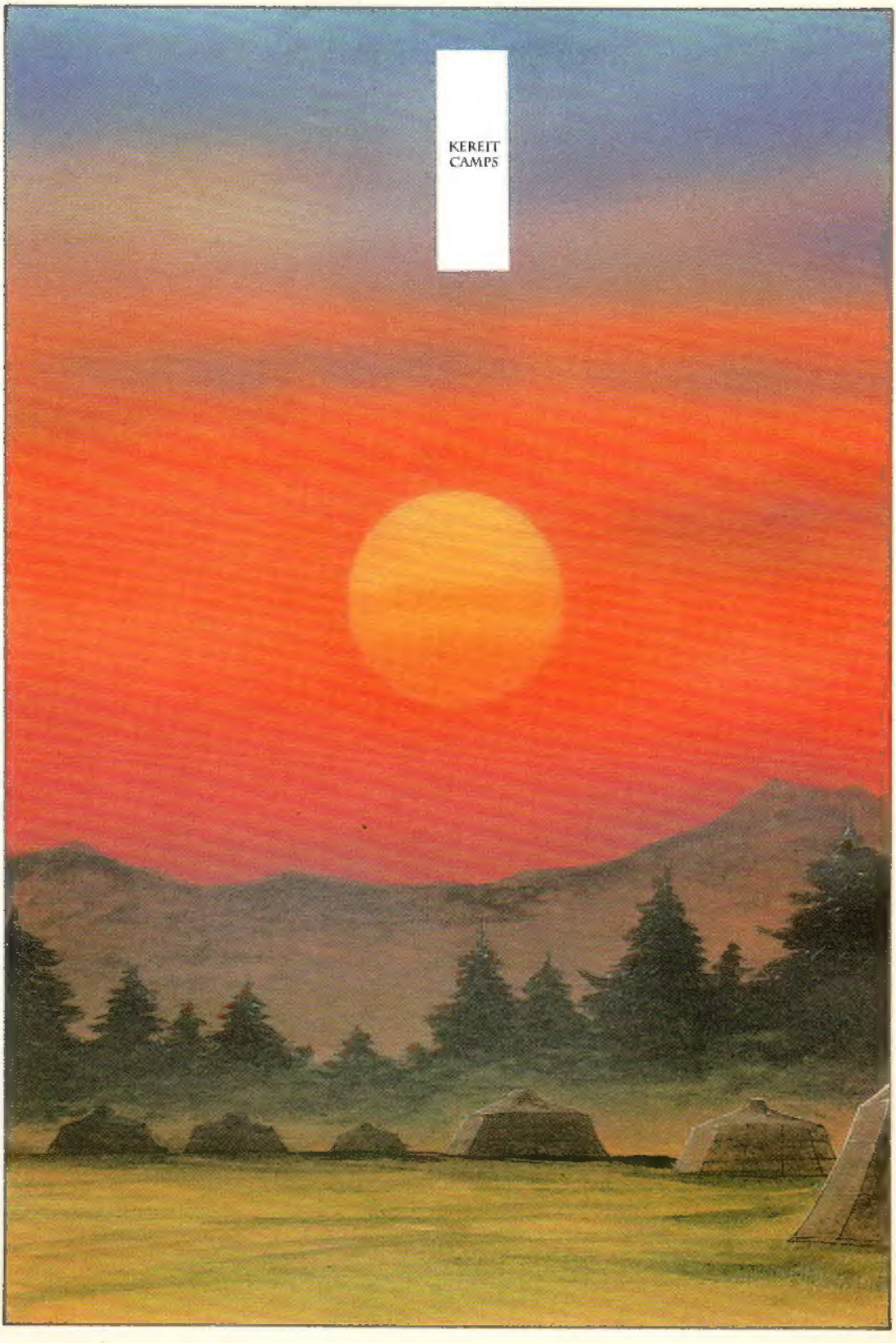
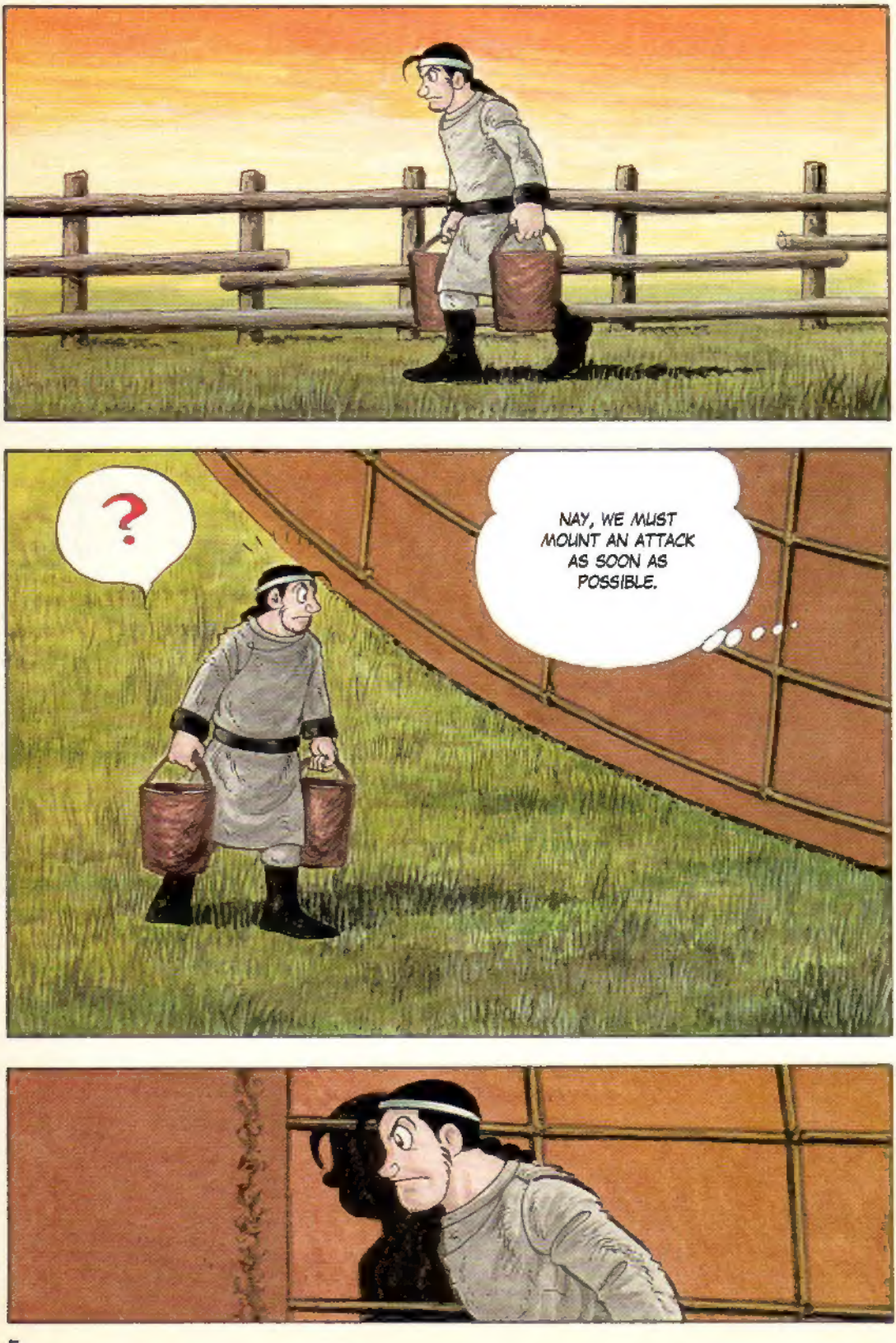
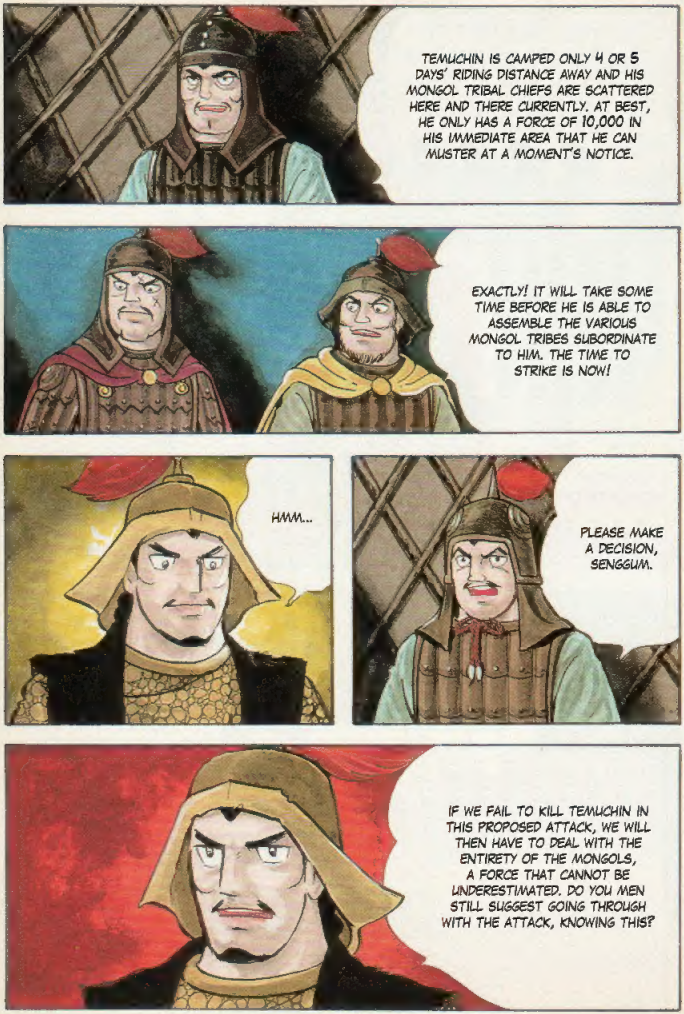
Translated by Sox
Edited by Happyscans

Battle of Kalakalzhit Desert


KEREIT
CAMPS


?
NAY, WE MUST MOUNT AN ATTACK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

IT'S A MEETING OF THE TRIBAL CHIEFS...
THE FACT THAT TEMUCHIN BOTHERED TO SEND ENVOYS IN HIS STEAD FOR THE SHEEP-NECK FEAST REVEALS THAT HE WAS AWARE OF OUR INTENTIONS, BUT WISHES TO AVOID ACTIVE HOSTILITIES FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE. I DO NOT BELIEVE HE HAS BEEN YET ABLE TO GATHER UP A FORCE THAT COULD CONTEND AGAINST US ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE.


TEMUCHIN IS CAMPED ONLY 4 OR 5 DAYS' RIDING DISTANCE AWAY AND HIS MONGOL TRIBAL CHIEFS ARE SCATTERED HERE AND THERE CURRENTLY. AT BEST, HE ONLY HAS A FORCE OF 10,000 IN HIS IMMEDIATE AREA THAT HE CAN MUSTER AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE.
EXACTLY! IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME BEFORE HE IS ABLE TO ASSEMBLE THE VARIOUS MONGOL TRIBES SUBORDINATE TO HIM. THE TIME TO STRIKE IS NOW!
HMM...
PLEASE MAKE A DECISION, SENGGUM.
IF WE FAIL TO KILL TEMUCHIN IN THIS PROPOSED ATTACK, WE WILL THEN HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE ENTIRETY OF THE MONGOLS, A FORCE THAT CANNOT BE UNDERESTIMATED. DO YOU MEN STILL SUGGEST GOING THROUGH WITH THE ATTACK, KNOWING THIS?

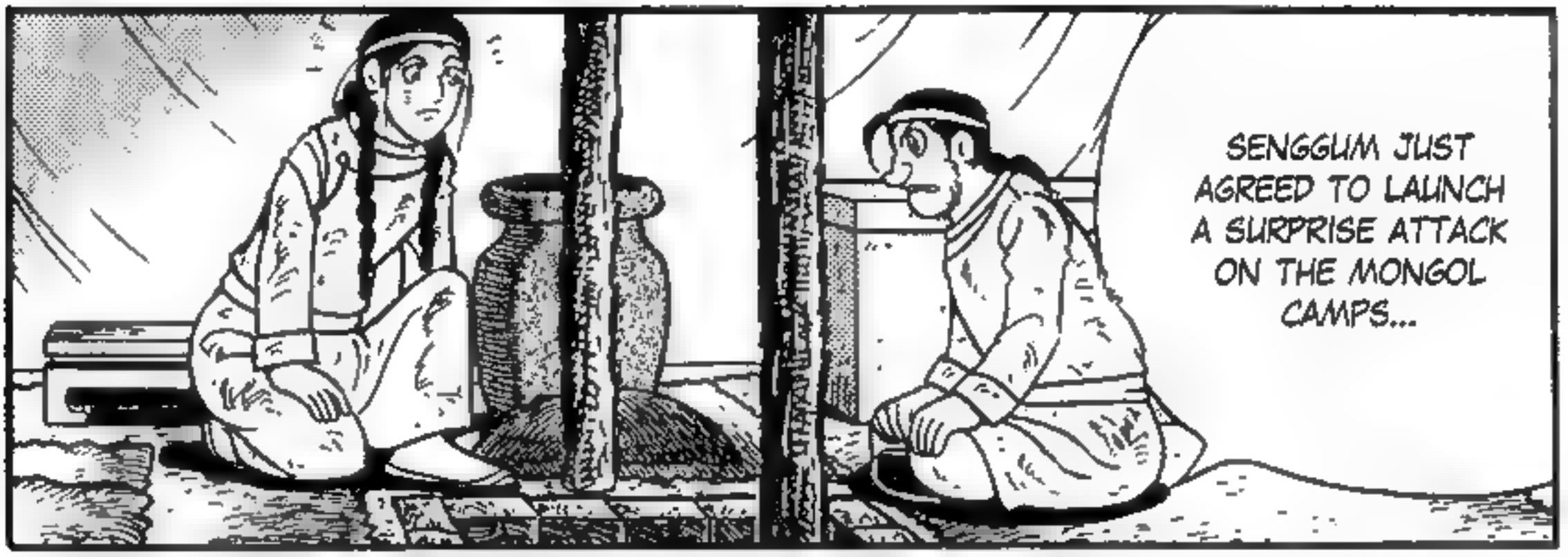
SENGGUM, VICTORY COMES TO THOSE WHO CAN SEIZE OPPORTUNITIES. TEMUCHIN IS NEAR US AND HE HAS INSUFFICIENT TRIBESMEN WITH HIM AT PRESENT. SUCH A CHANCE WILL NOT COME AGAIN.
THE ONLY RELEVANT FACT NOW IS THAT WE HAVE A SUPERIOR LOCAL FORCE ASSEMBLED. TEMUCHIN IS DEFENSELESS.
THE REST OF THE MONGOLS WILL SCATTER IN THE WIND ONCE TEMUCHIN IS SLAIN. WE NEED NOT FEAR THEIR NUMBERS.
EXACTLY, WE CANNOT ALLOW THAT UPSTART TO STRUT ABOUT ANY LONGER!
YES, YES... YOU'RE RIGHT! THE TIME TO ATTACK AND ESTABLISH MYSELF AS THE STEPPE'S TRUE OVERLORD IS NOW!

MAN, OH MAN, DID I EVER OVERHEAR SOME MAJOR NEWS...

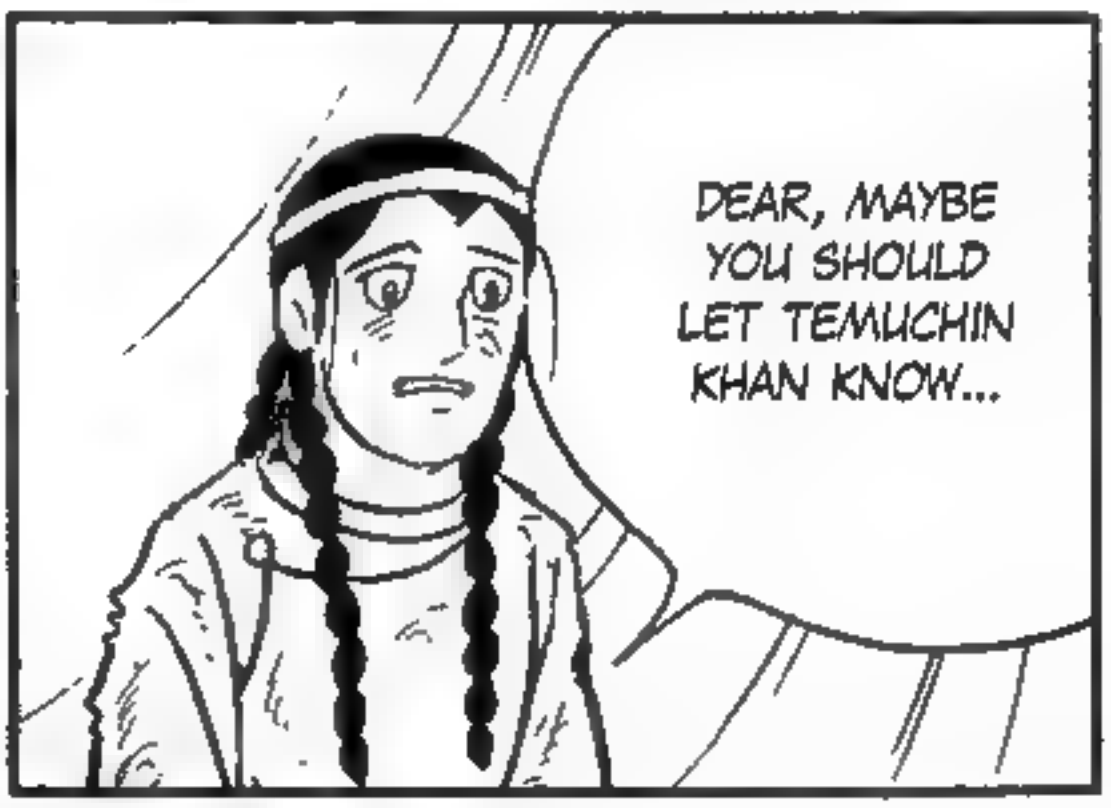
?

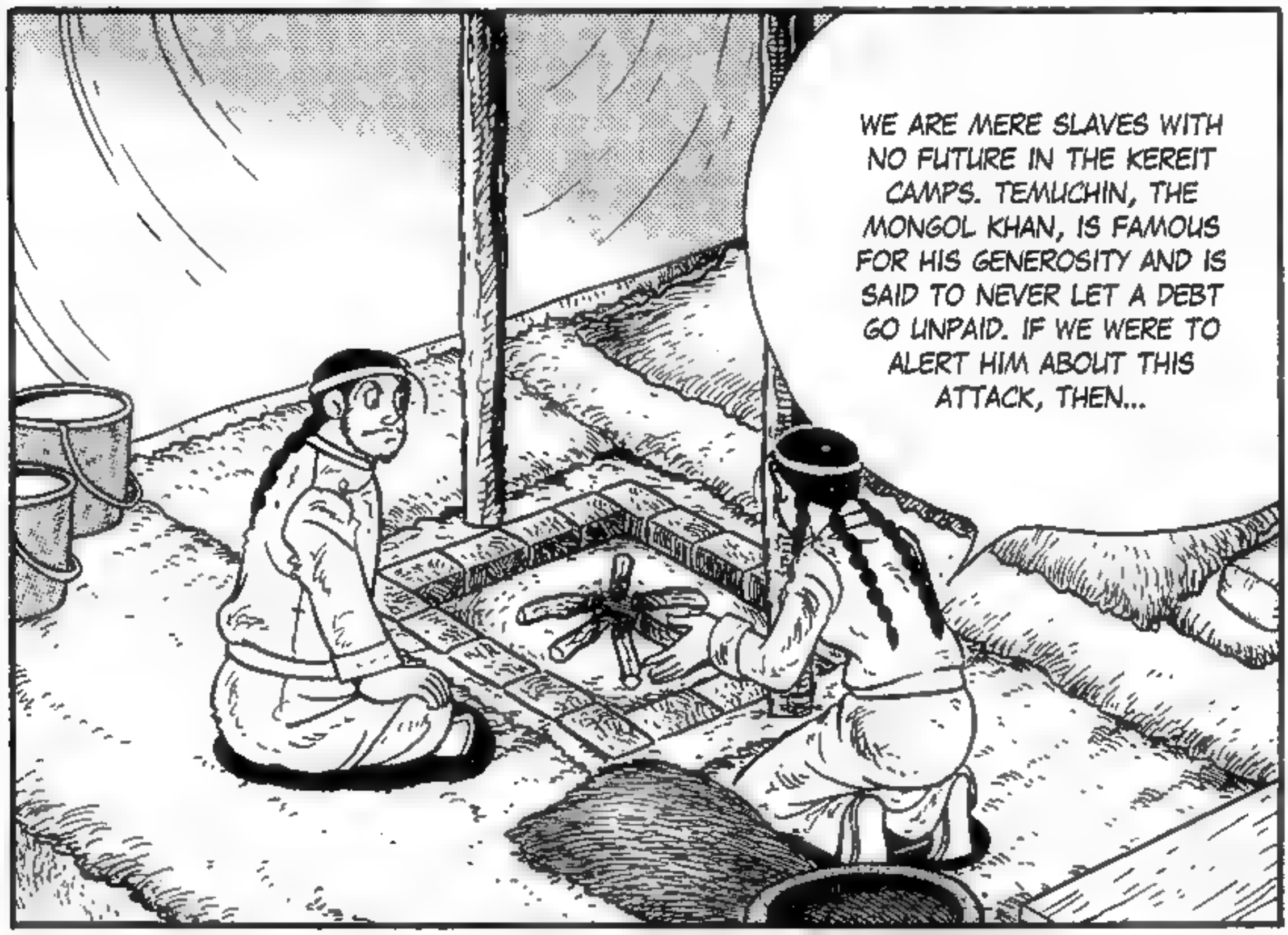
I JUST HEARD SOMETHING HUGE...

WHY THE PALE FACE, DEAR? DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?


SENGGUM JUST AGREED TO LAUNCH A SURPRISE ATTACK ON THE MONGOL CAMPS...

WHA!?


DEAR, MAYBE YOU SHOULD LET TEMUCHIN KHAN KNOW...


WE ARE MERE SLAVES WITH NO FUTURE IN THE KEREIT CAMPS. TEMUCHIN, THE MONGOL KHAN, IS FAMOUS FOR HIS GENEROSITY AND IS SAID TO NEVER LET A DEBT GO UNPAID. IF WE WERE TO ALERT HIM ABOUT THIS ATTACK, THEN...

PLEASE, DEAR. I'M TIRED OF LIVING A SLAVE'S LIFE. I WANT A BETTER FUTURE FOR OURSELVES.

HMM...

THINGS? WE HARDLY OWN ANYTHING OF VALUE.

YOU KNOW WHAT, YOU'RE RIGHT. GET OUR THINGS READY.

R-RIGHT... LET'S LEAVE AS SOON AS NIGHT FALLS.

SOME FOOD FOR THE TRIP IS ALL WE NEED.

YES,
I KNOW.

IT'LL BE OUR HEADS IF WE'RE CAUGHT. BE PREPARED.

DON'T MAKE A SOUND...

MONGOL CAMPS

WHAT!? THE KEREITS ARE PLANNING ON A SURPRISE RAID!?

THANK YOU FOR LETTING ME KNOW.

YES, THAT IS WHAT I OVERHEARD THE TRIBAL CHIEFS DISCUSSING WITH SENGGUM.

I AM JUST A HUMBLE SLAVE OF THE KEREITS.

WHO DID YOU SAY YOU WERE?

YES, KHAN.

SEE TO IT THAT THIS MAN IS PROPERLY REWARDED.

THANK YOU, SIR.

YOUR WARNING IS MOST APPRECIATED.

YES, KHAN.

AND YOU SAID YOU WERE A SLAVE?

YOU REALLY MEAN IT, SIR!?

I WILL GRANT YOU PERMISSION TO LIVE IN MY CAMPS AS A FREE TRIBESMAN. YOU ARE A SLAVE NO MORE.

I COULD NOT BE MORE GRATEFUL.

RIGHT AWAY.

KASAR, ASSEMBLE MY MEN.

!
THE KEREITS ARE PLANNING TO ATTACK OUR CAMPS HERE WITH A FORCE OF SOME TENS OF THOUSANDS STRONG.
JUST AS WE FEARED...

KHAN, PERHAPS WE SHOULD CALL UP THE OTHER TRIBAL CHIEFS.

AS YOU MEN ARE AWARE, WE ONLY HAVE A FORCE OF 10,000 WITH US HERE AT THE MOMENT... THE MEETING NOW IS TO DELIBERATE ON OUR COURSE OF ACTION.

WE ARE THE DESCENDANTS OF THE BLUE-GRAY WOLF! NUMBERS MEAN LITTLE TO OUR FEROCITY!

NO, THEY ARE TOO FAR AWAY FROM US AT THE MOMENT. WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO HOLD OFF THE KEREITS LONG ENOUGH FOR OUR ALLIES TO ARRIVE.

I STRONGLY BELIEVE WE MUST RETREAT FOR NOW AND HOPE TO REGROUP WITH OUR ENTIRE FORCES.

DO NOT BE QUICK TO TAKE OFFENSE. THIS IS A BATTLE THAT WE CANNOT AFFORD TO LOSE. WE MUST NOT LET OUR EMOTIONS GET THE BETTER OF US.

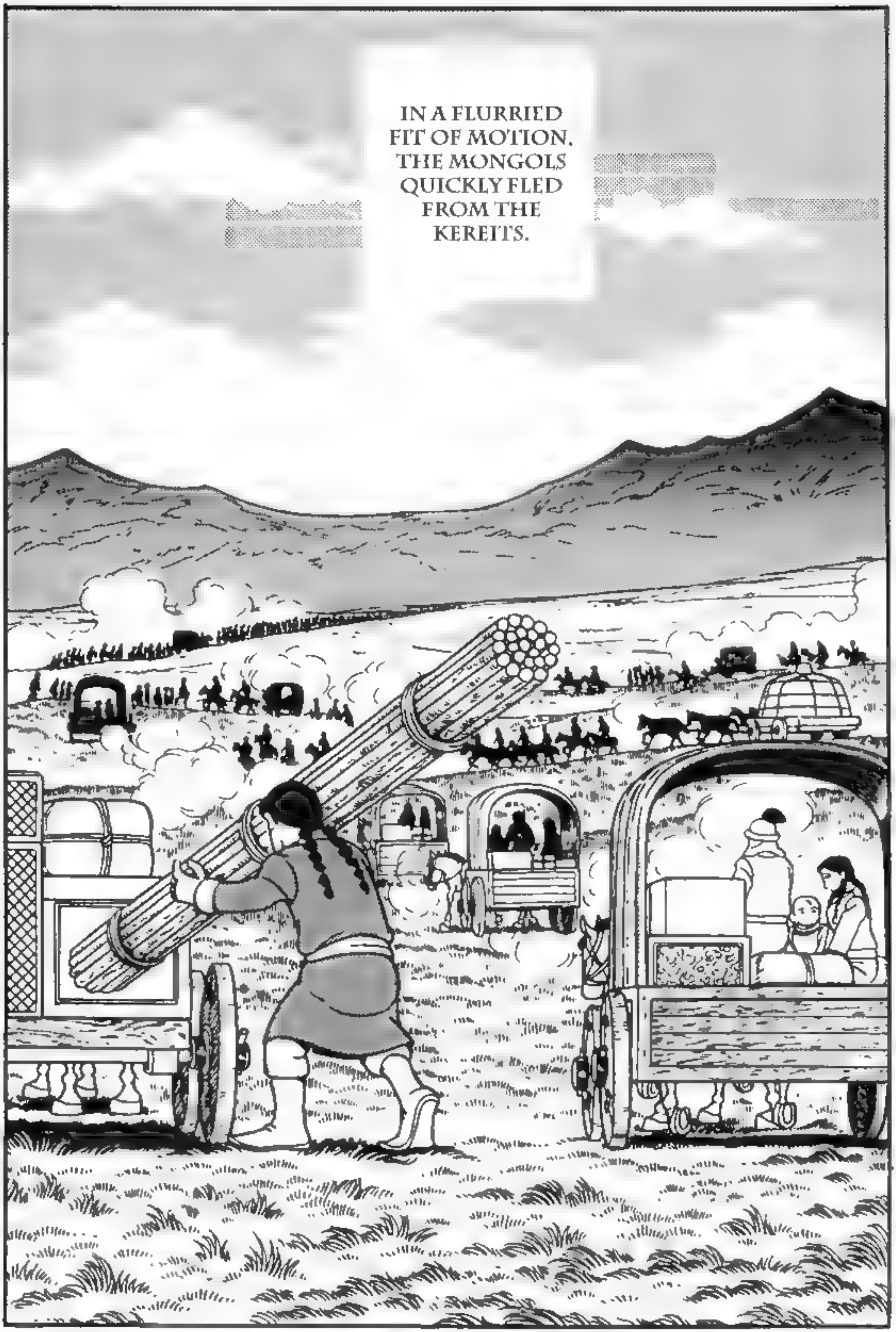
HMM...

THE CHOICE IS YOURS, KHAN. DECIDE, AND WE WILL FOLLOW.

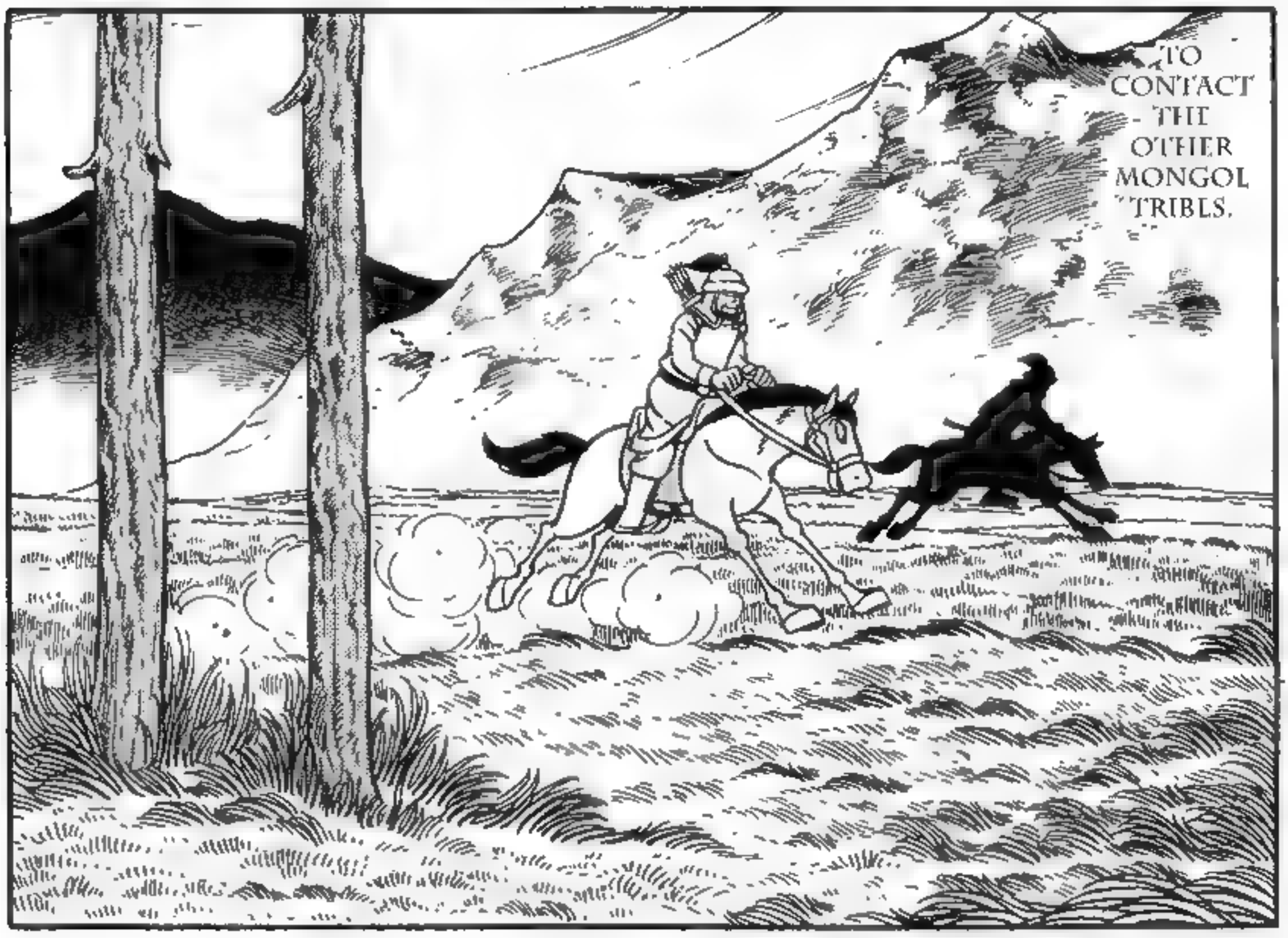
YES, KHAN.

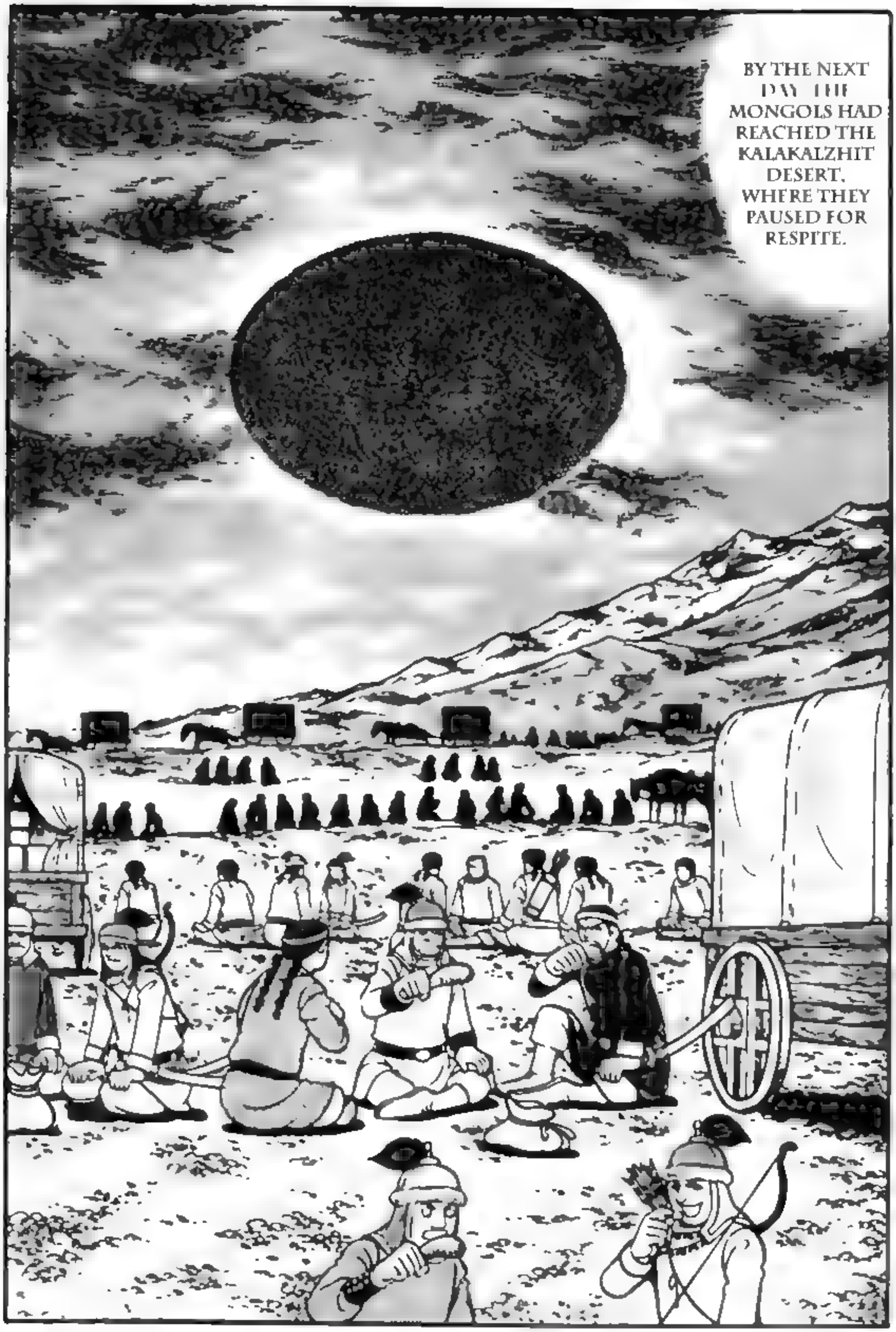
I AGREE. WE MUST AVOID A DISADVANTAGEOUS FIGHT IF POSSIBLE. SEND OUT THE WORD TO BREAK UP CAMP AND START RETREATING AT ONCE.

IN A FLURRIED FIT OF MOTION, THE MONGOLS QUICKLY FLED FROM THE KEREITS.

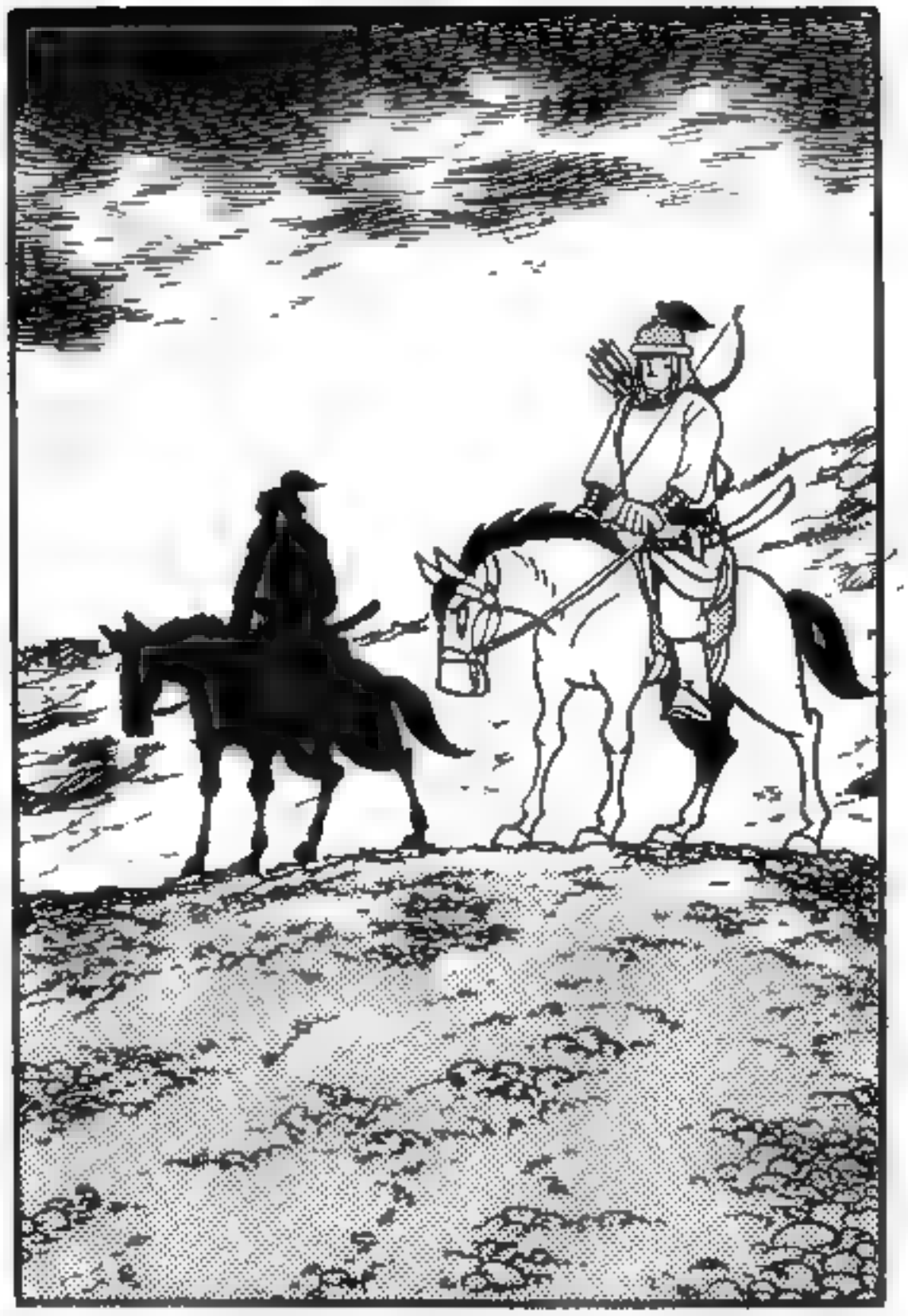


AT THE SAME TIME, RIDERS RODE IN EVERY DIRECTION,

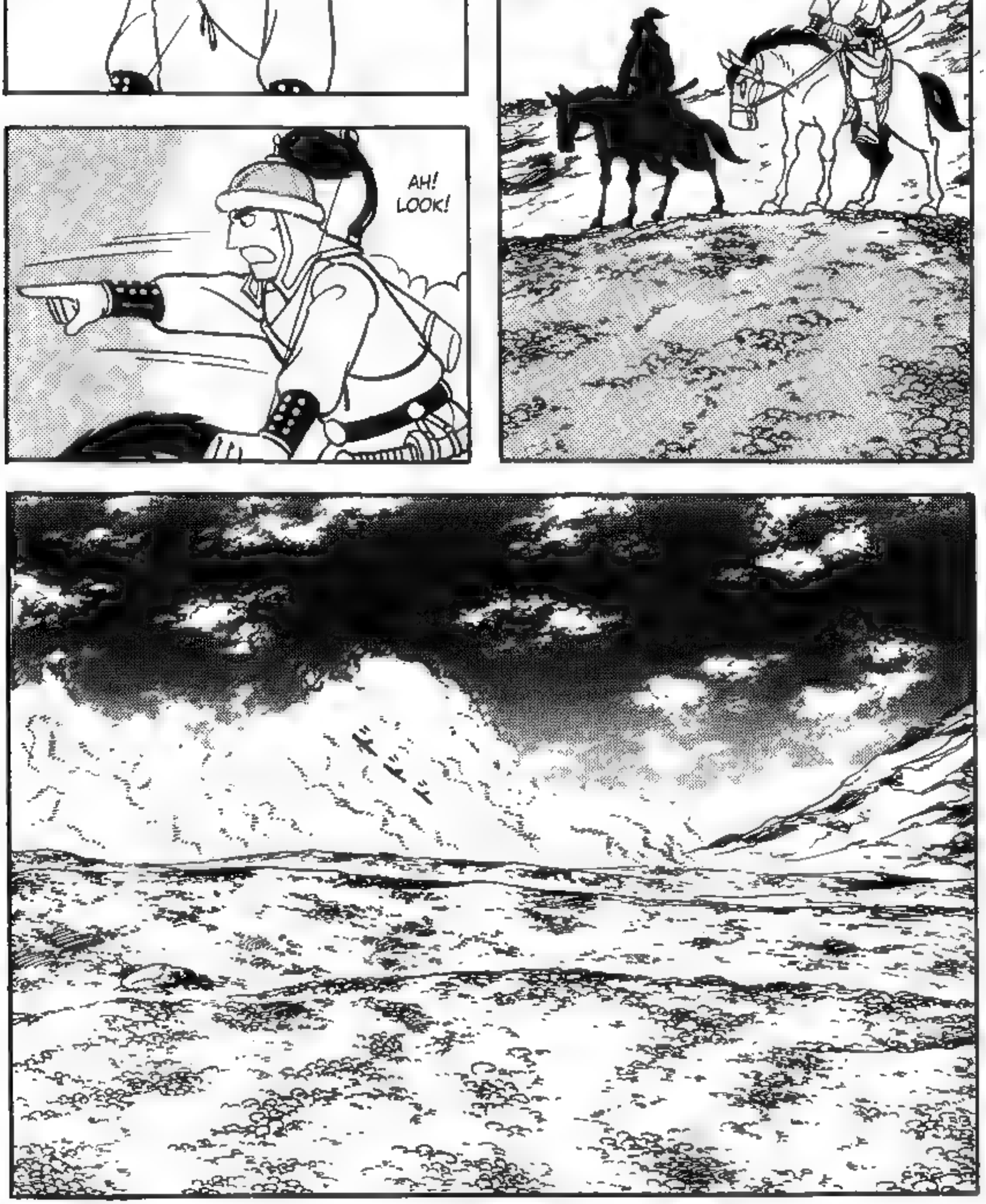

TO CONTACT THE OTHER MONGOL TRIBES.


BY THE NEXT DAY THE MONGOLS HAD REACHED THE KALAKALZHIT DESERT, WHERE THEY PAUSED FOR RESPITE.

HM?



AH!
LOOK!



KEREITS!

WE MUST ALERT THE KHAN!

ENEMIES SPOTTED JUST OVER THE RIDGE!

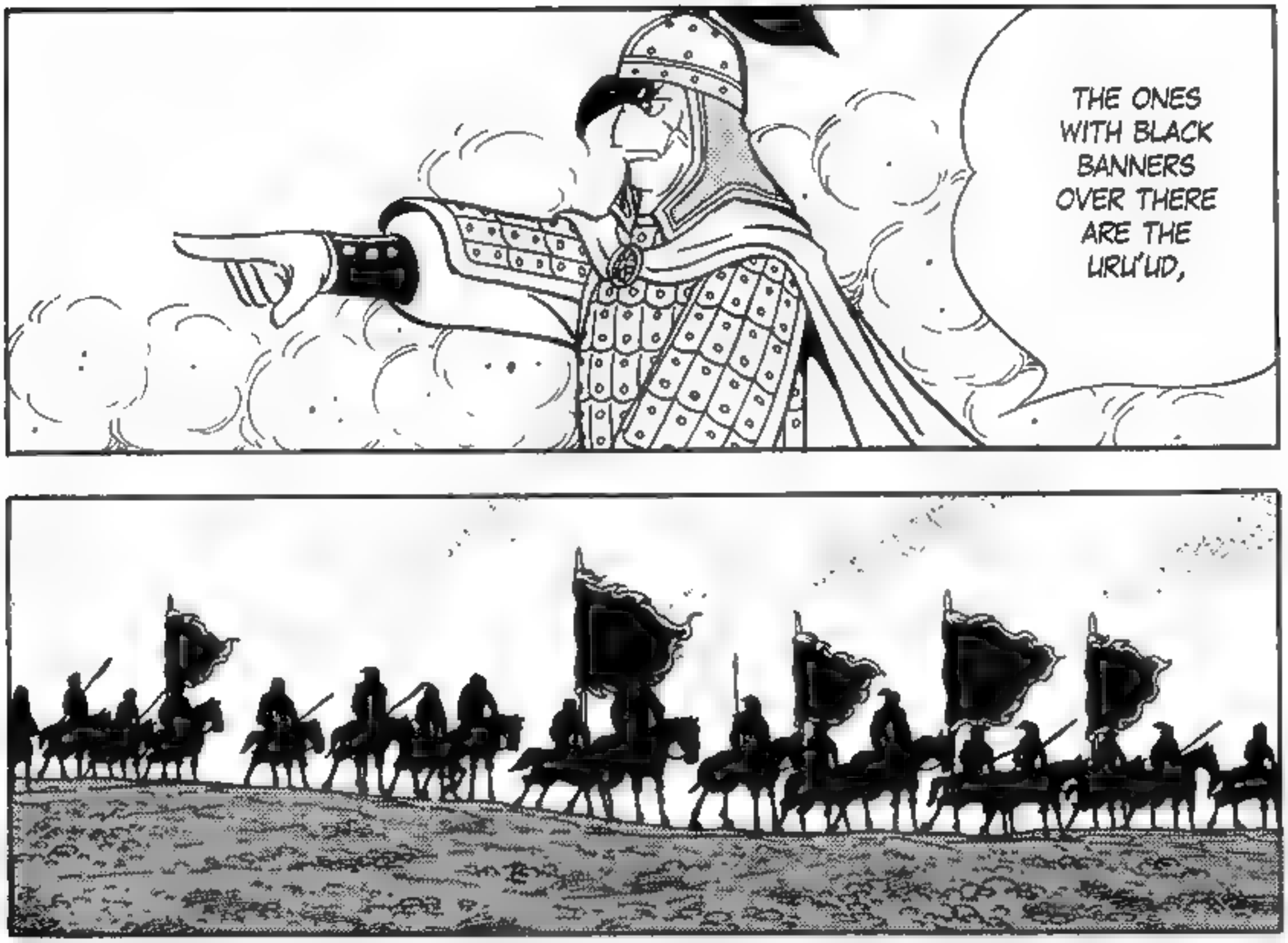
PREPARE FOR BATTLE!

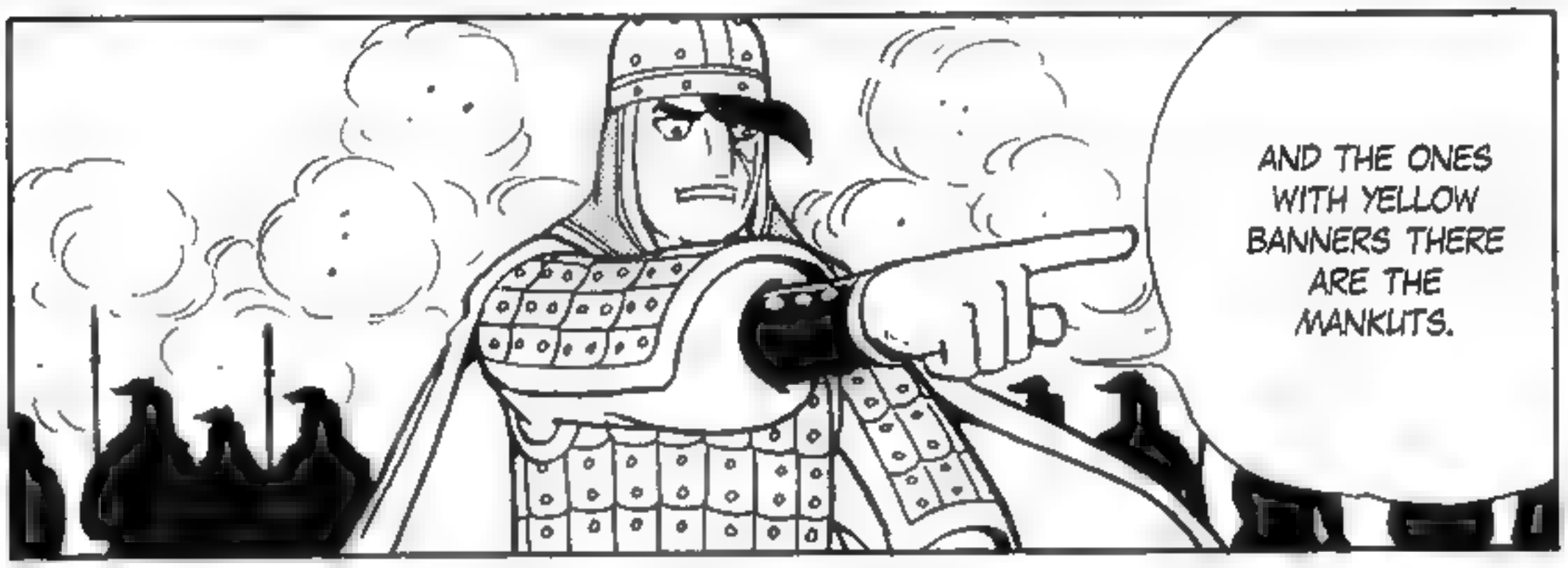
YES, KHAN.

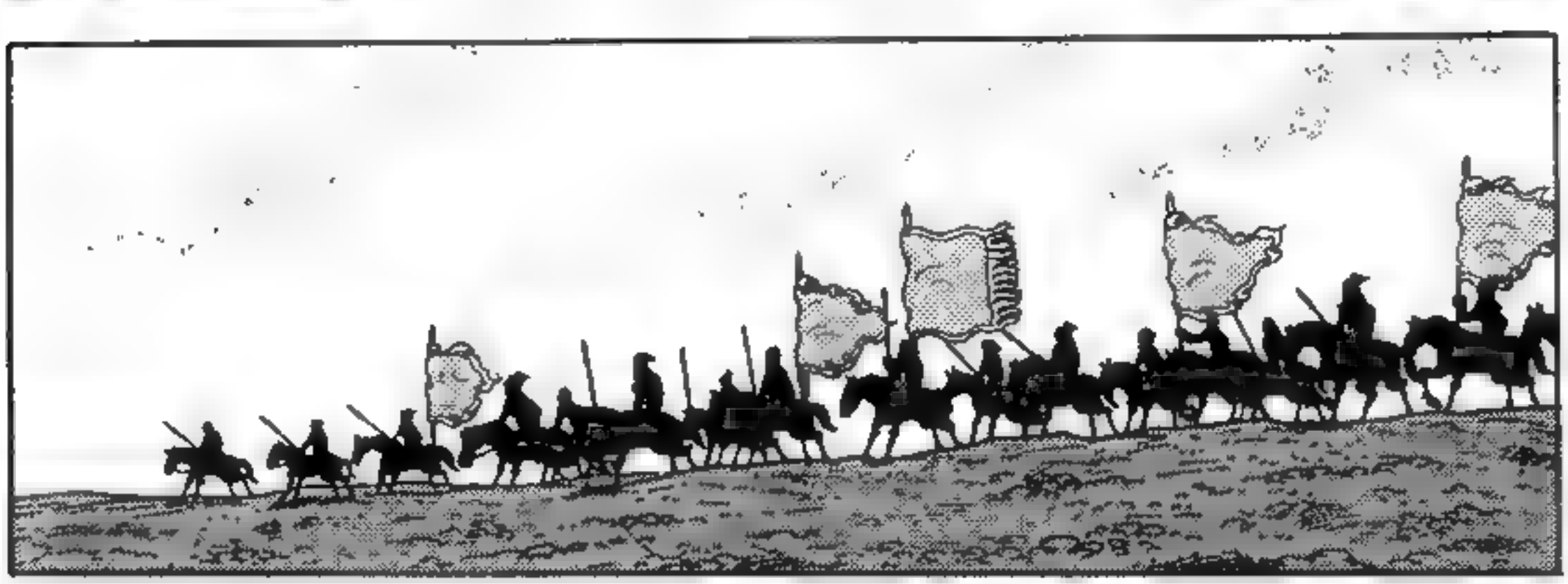
CALL THE MANKUT CHIEF, KUILDAR, AND THE URU'D CHIEF, JURCHEDEI, TO THIS POSITION AT ONCE!

THE URU'UD AND MANKUT TRIBES, OF COURSE.

WHICH MONGOL TRIBES DO YOU THINK WILL DARE TO STAND WITH TEMUCHIN AT HIS MOMENT OF DOOM?


THE ONES WITH BLACK BANNERS OVER THERE ARE THE URU'UD,


AND THE ONES WITH YELLOW BANNERS THERE ARE THE MANKUTS.

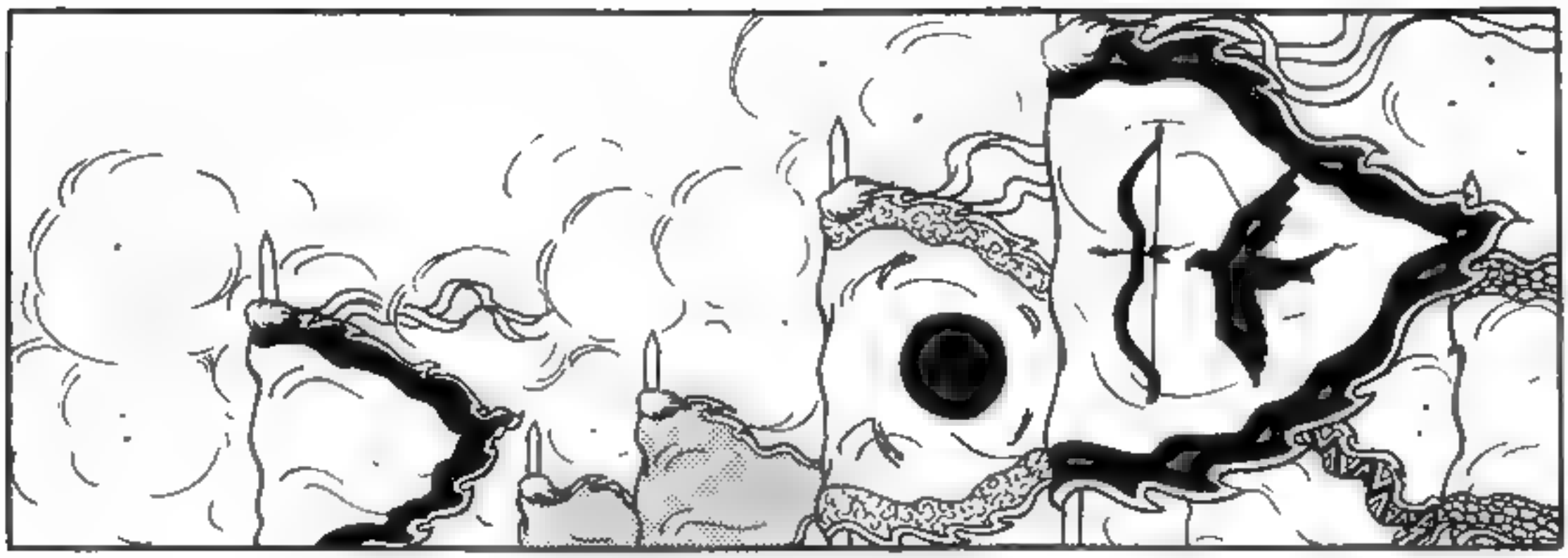


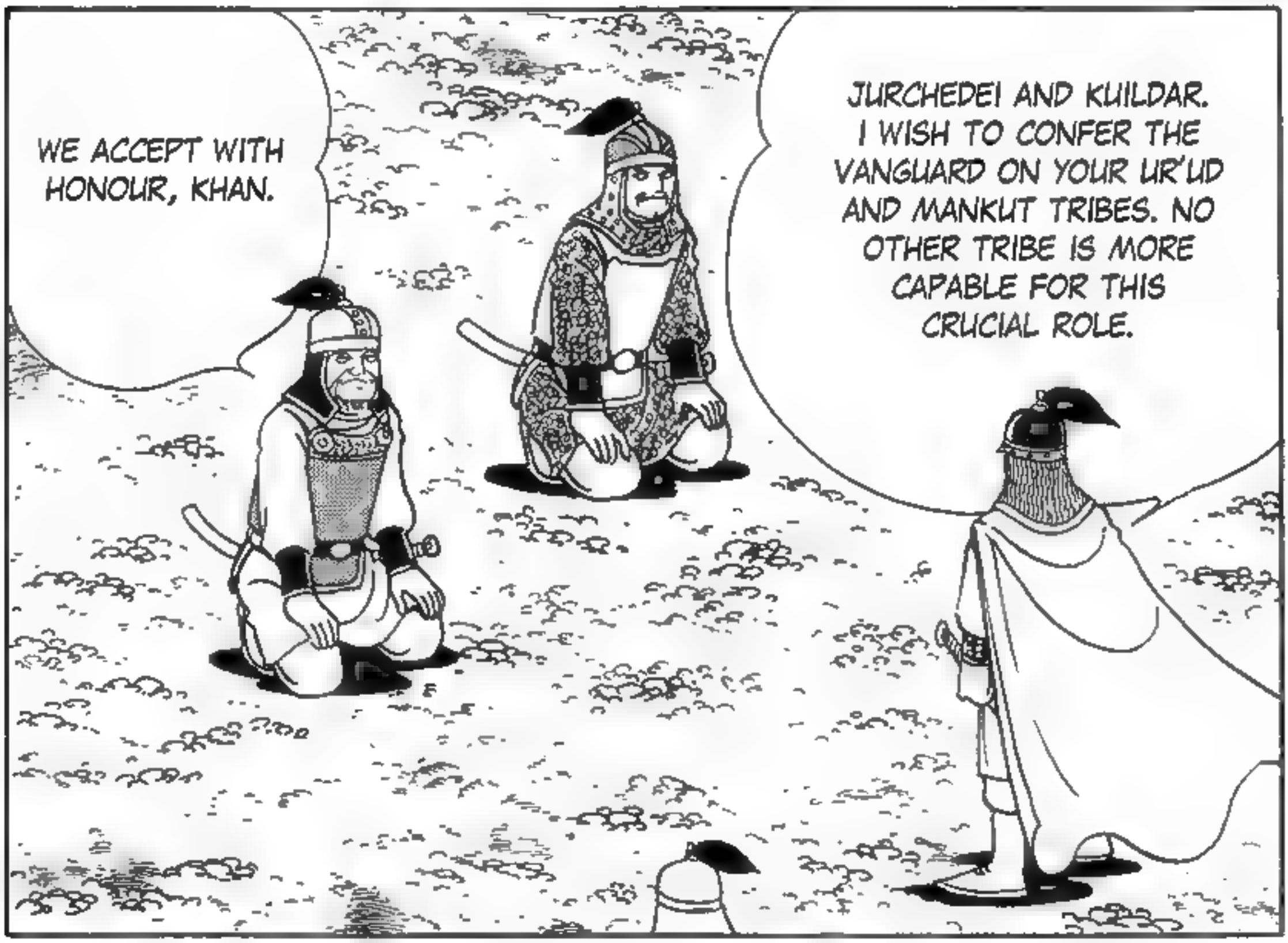
THEN WE WILL SET THE ELITE JIRGIN WARRIORS AS OUR VANGUARD, BACKED BY THE TÜBEGENS.

THEY ARE TWO OF THE FIERCEST AND BRAVEST TRIBES AMONG THE MONGOLS.

TEMUCHIN, YOUR TIME IS NOW OVER.

THEY, IN TURN, WILL BE FOLLOWED BY THE DONGQAYIT TRIBESMEN. ONCE THE MONGOL FRONTLINES BEGIN TO CRUMBLE, WE WILL LEAD THE MAIN BODY OF OUR TROOPS TO SWOOP IN AND FINISH THEM OFF.




WE ACCEPT WITH HONOUR, KHAN.
JURCHEDEI AND KUILDAR. I WISH TO CONFER THE VANGUARD ON YOUR UR'UD AND MANKUT TRIBES. NO OTHER TRIBE IS MORE CAPABLE FOR THIS CRUCIAL ROLE.

SPEAK.

BUT I HAVE ONE WISH.

YOUR WISH IS GRANTED.

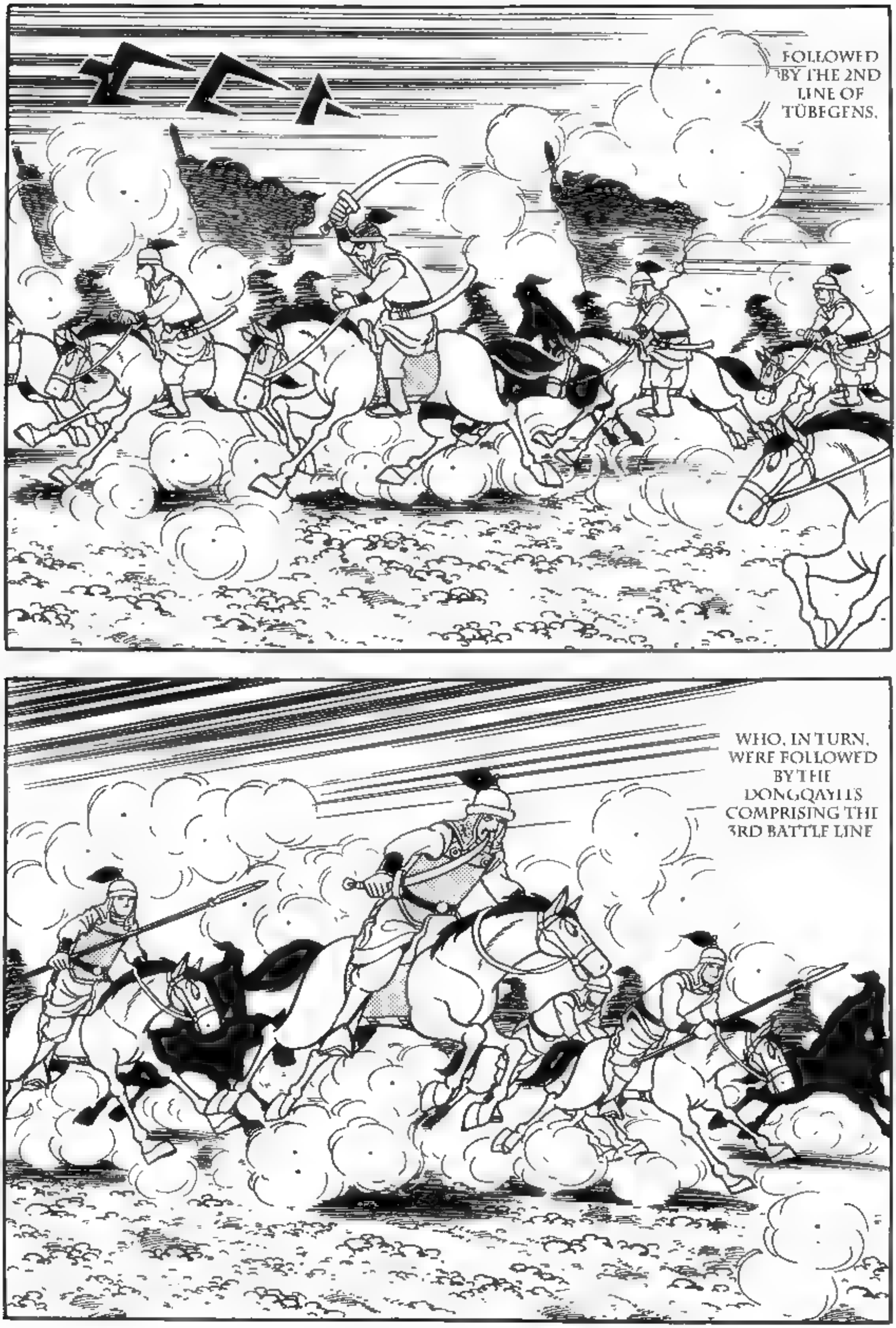
IN THE CASE I WERE TO FALL IN BATTLE, I ASK MY KHAN TO RAISE MY SONS ON MY BEHALF.

WE WILL THEN GLADLY OFFER OUR SWORDS TO YOUR SERVICE.

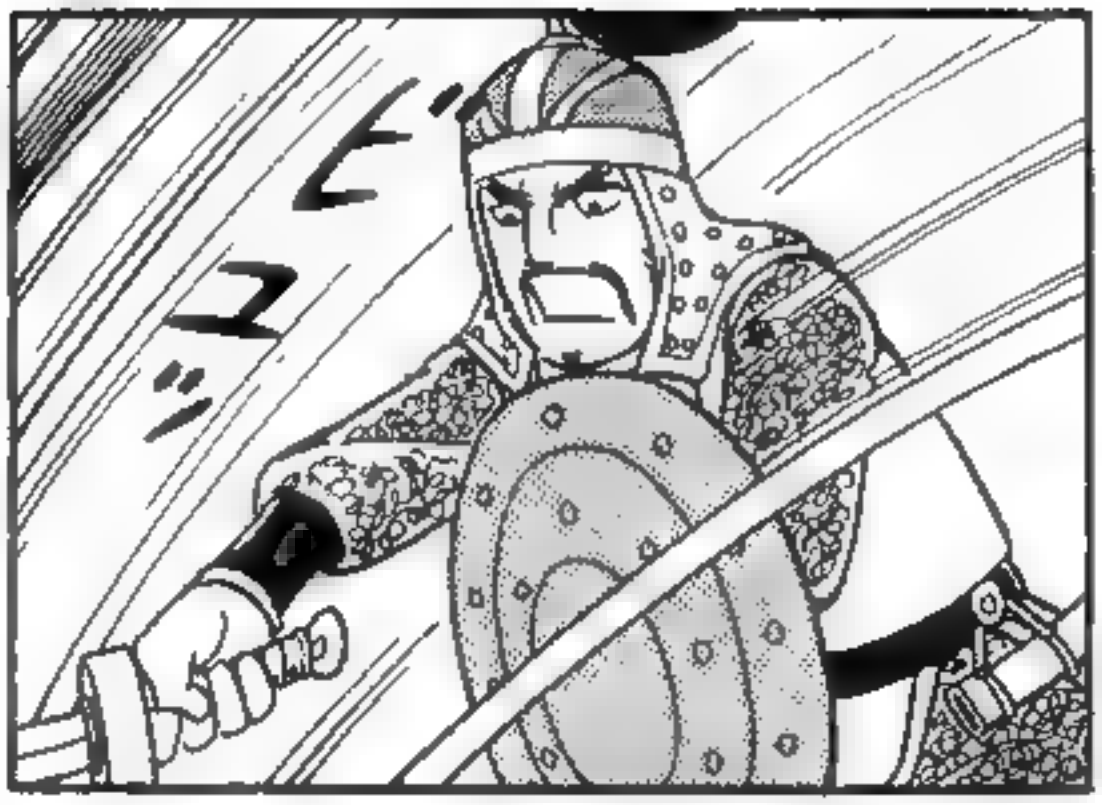
THUS, JURCHIDFI OF THE URU'UD,

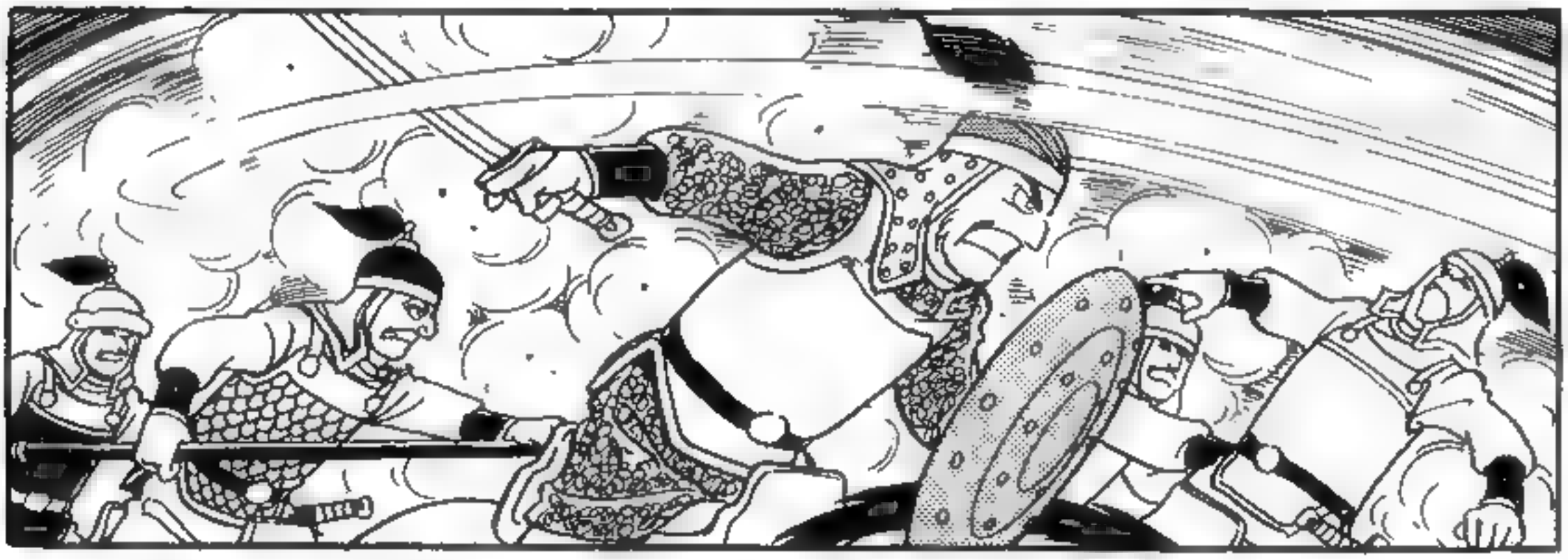
AND KUILDAR OF THE MANKUT OPENED THE BATTLE BY LEADING THE MONGOL VANGUARD.

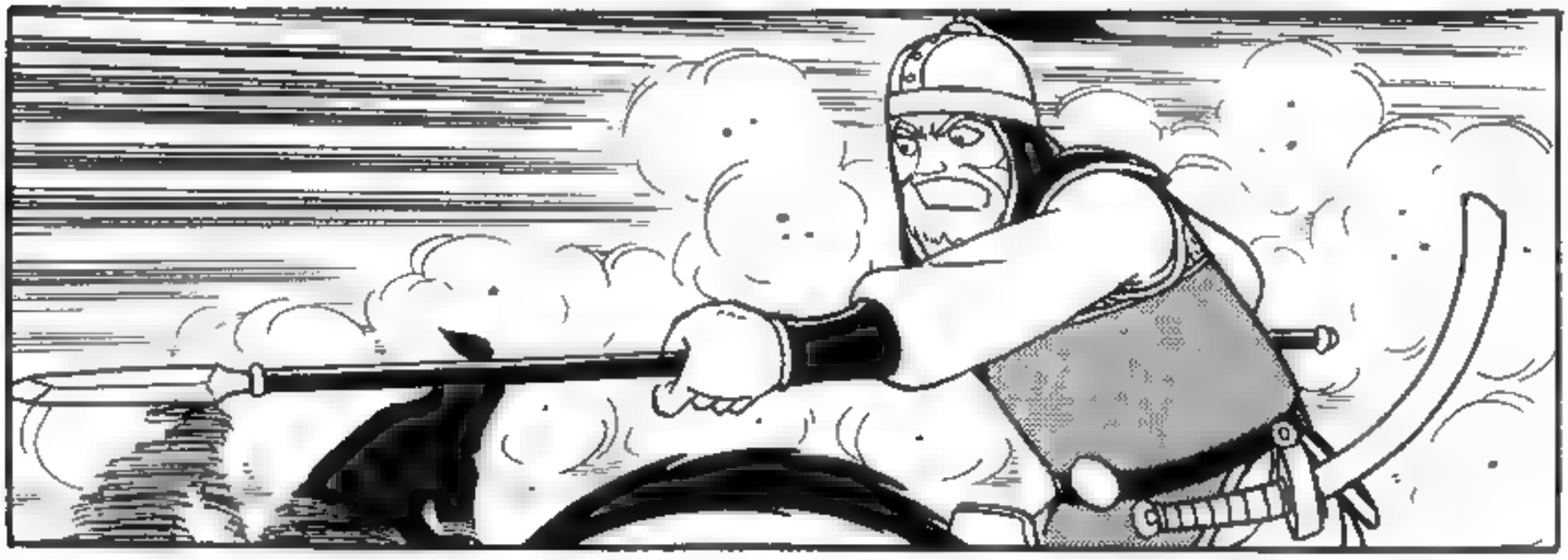
FACING THEM WERE JIRGINS.

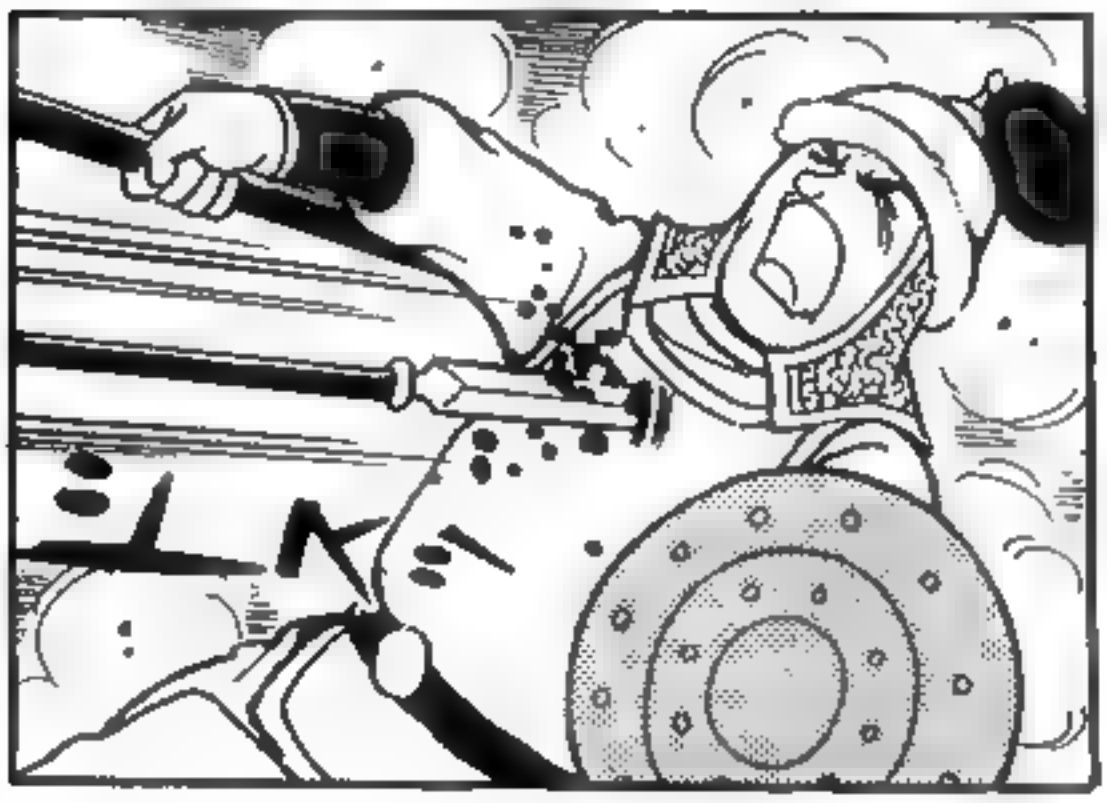

FOLLOWED BY THE 2ND LINE OF TÜBEGENS.
WHO, IN TURN, WERE FOLLOWED BY THE DONGQAYLIS COMPRISING THE 3RD BATTLE LINE

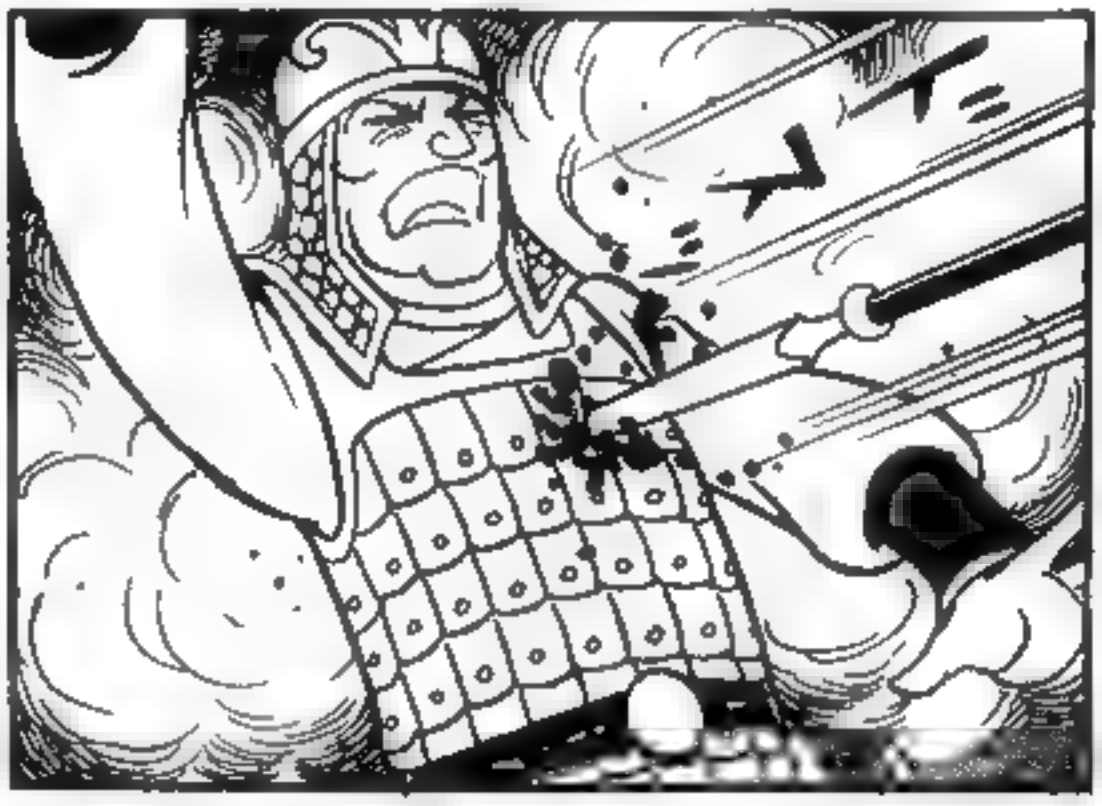
A FIERCE BATTLE BROKE OUT IN THE DESERT.

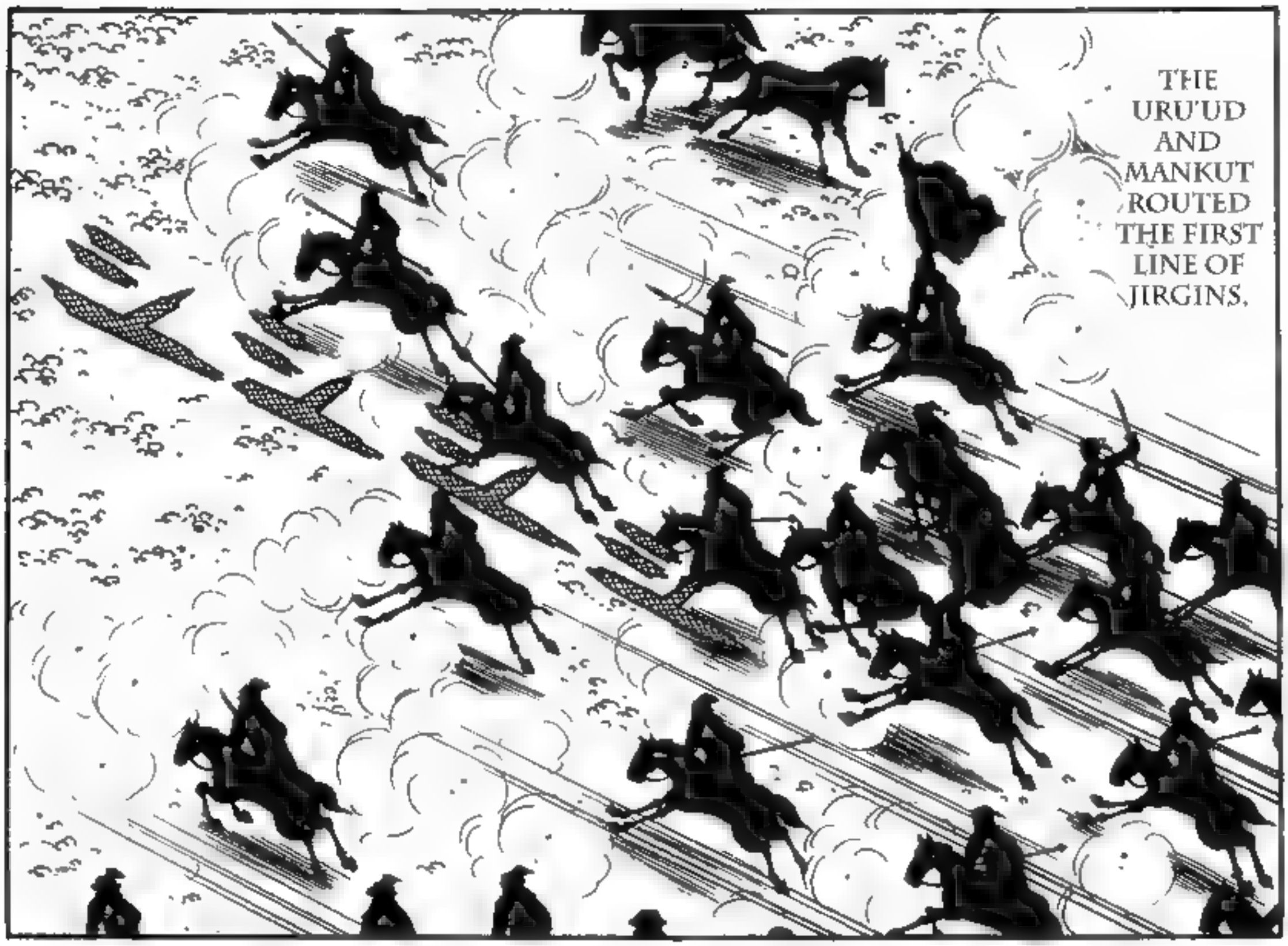




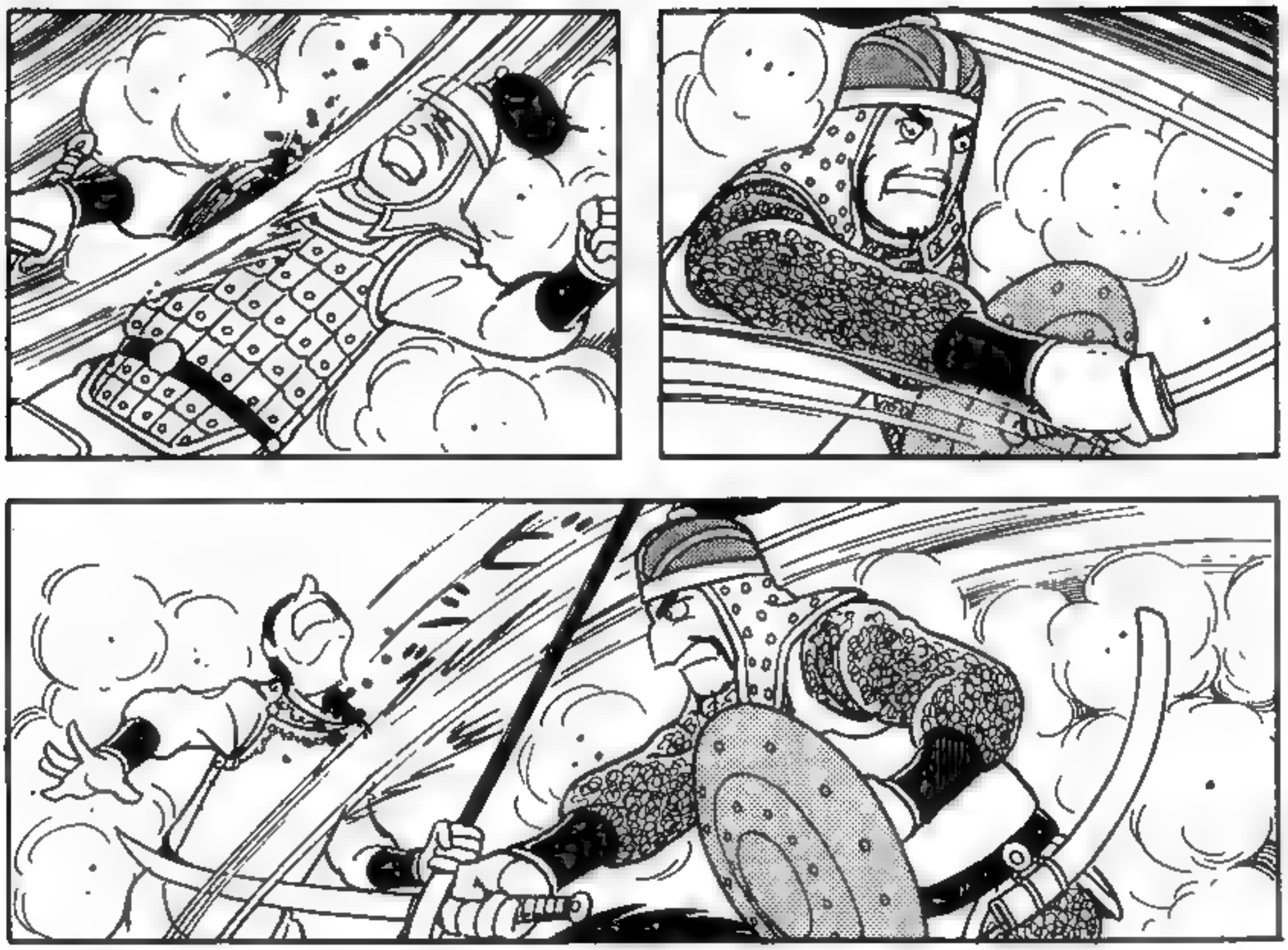


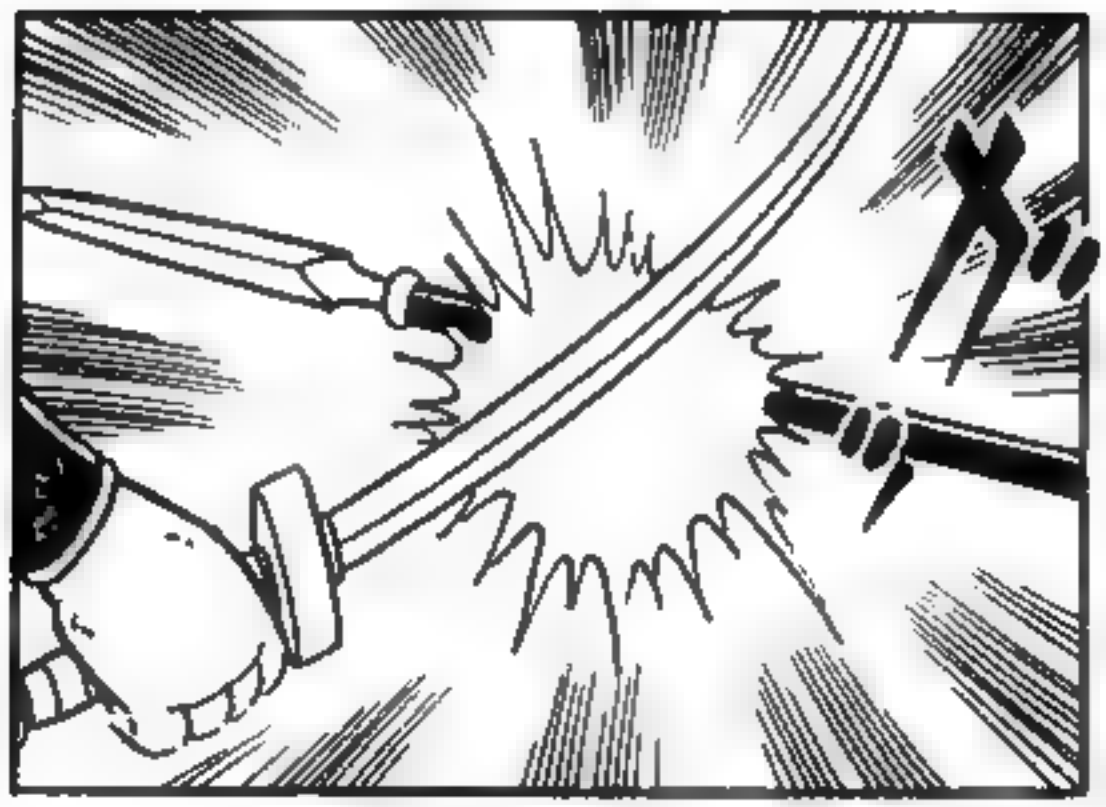


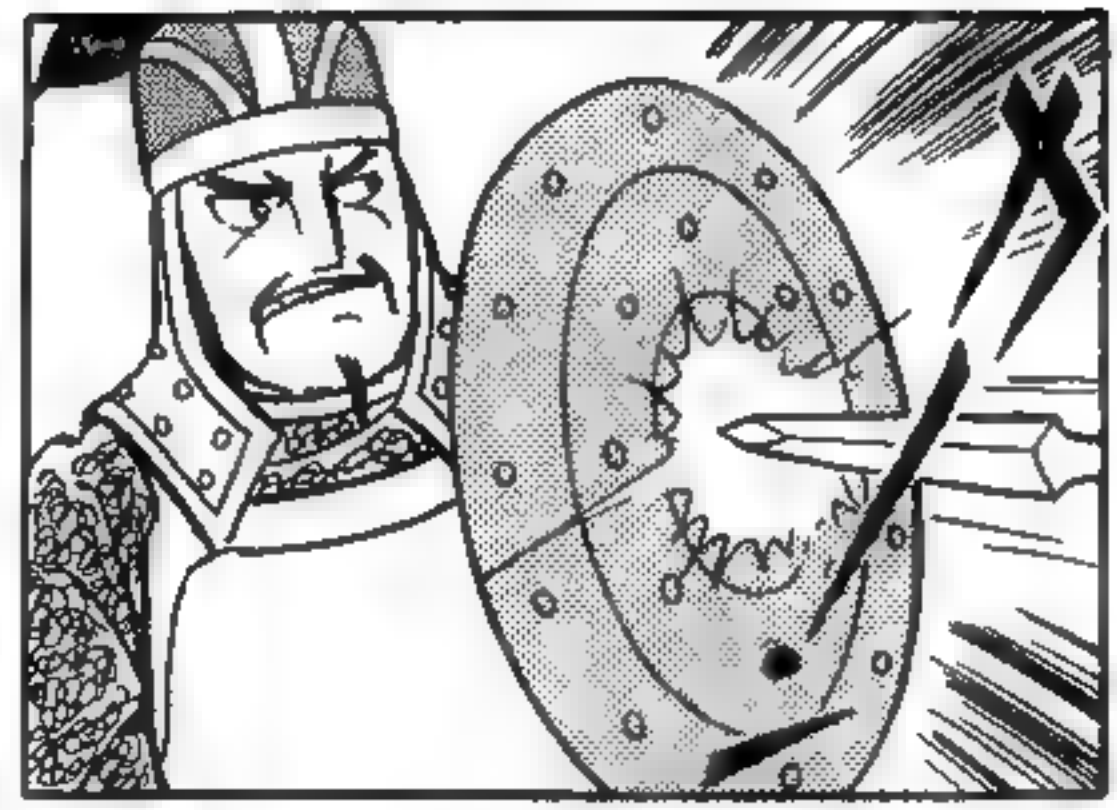


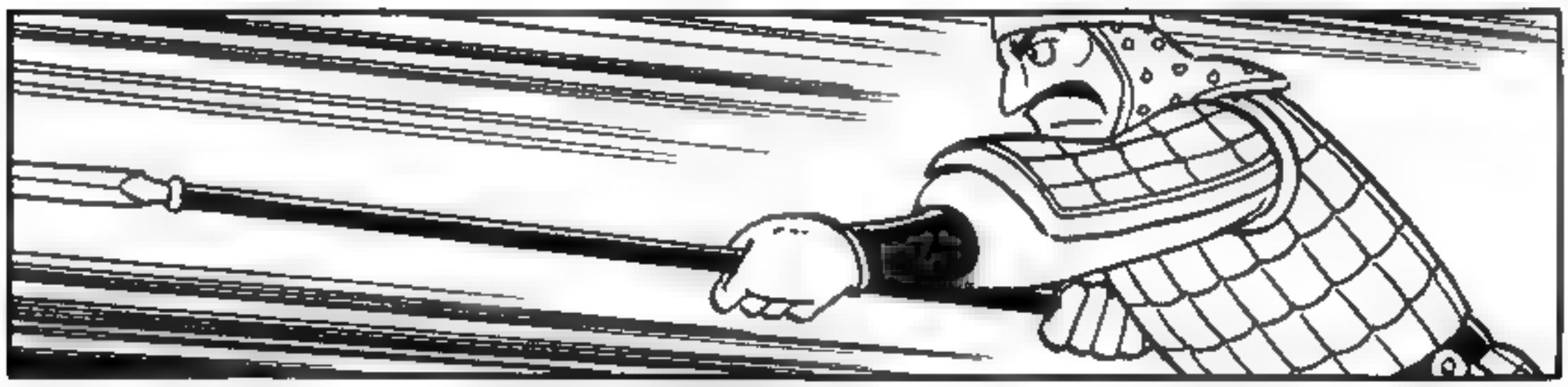

THE URU'UD AND MANKUT ROUTED THE FIRST LINE OF JIRGINS.

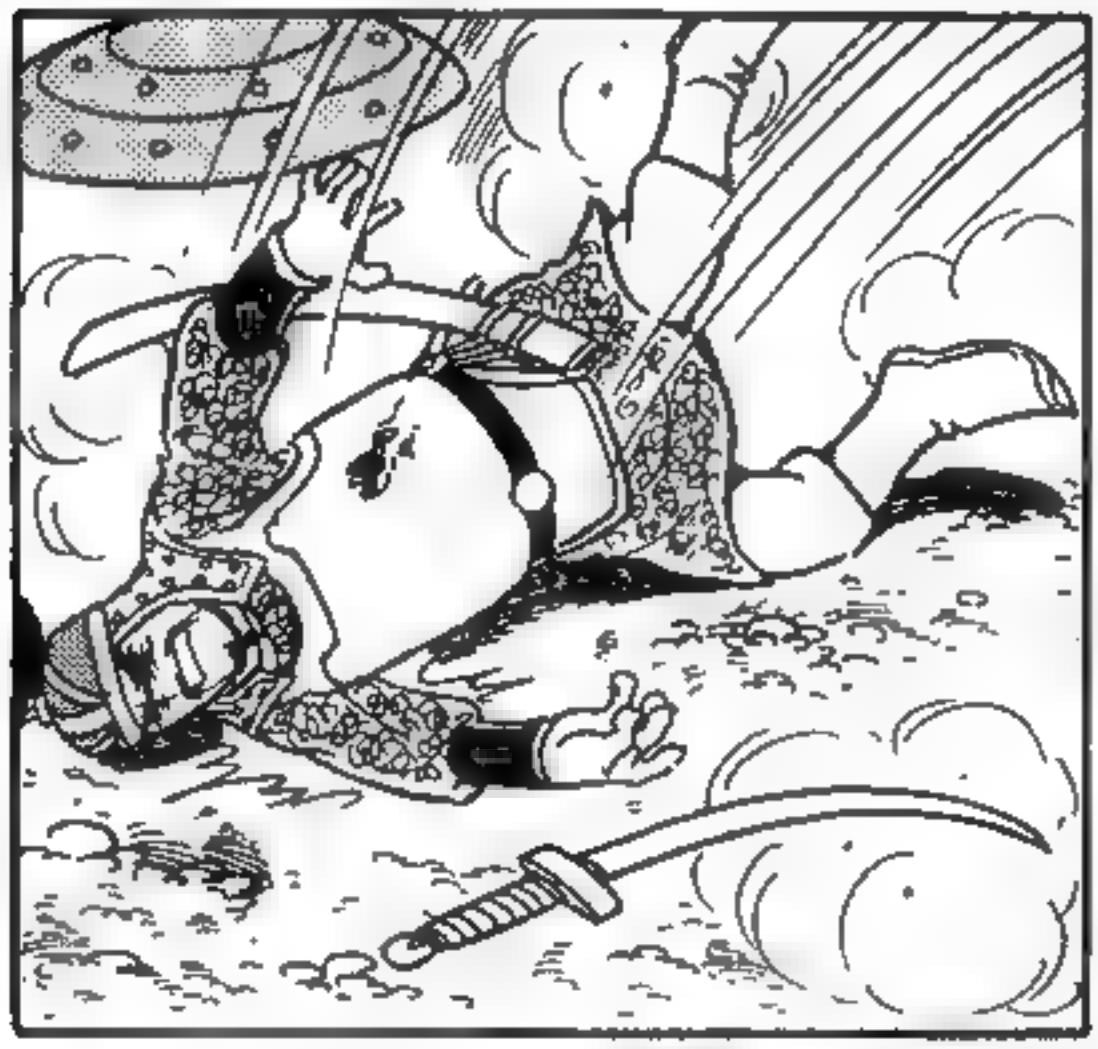
AND CHARGED THE 2ND LINE OF TÜBEGENS

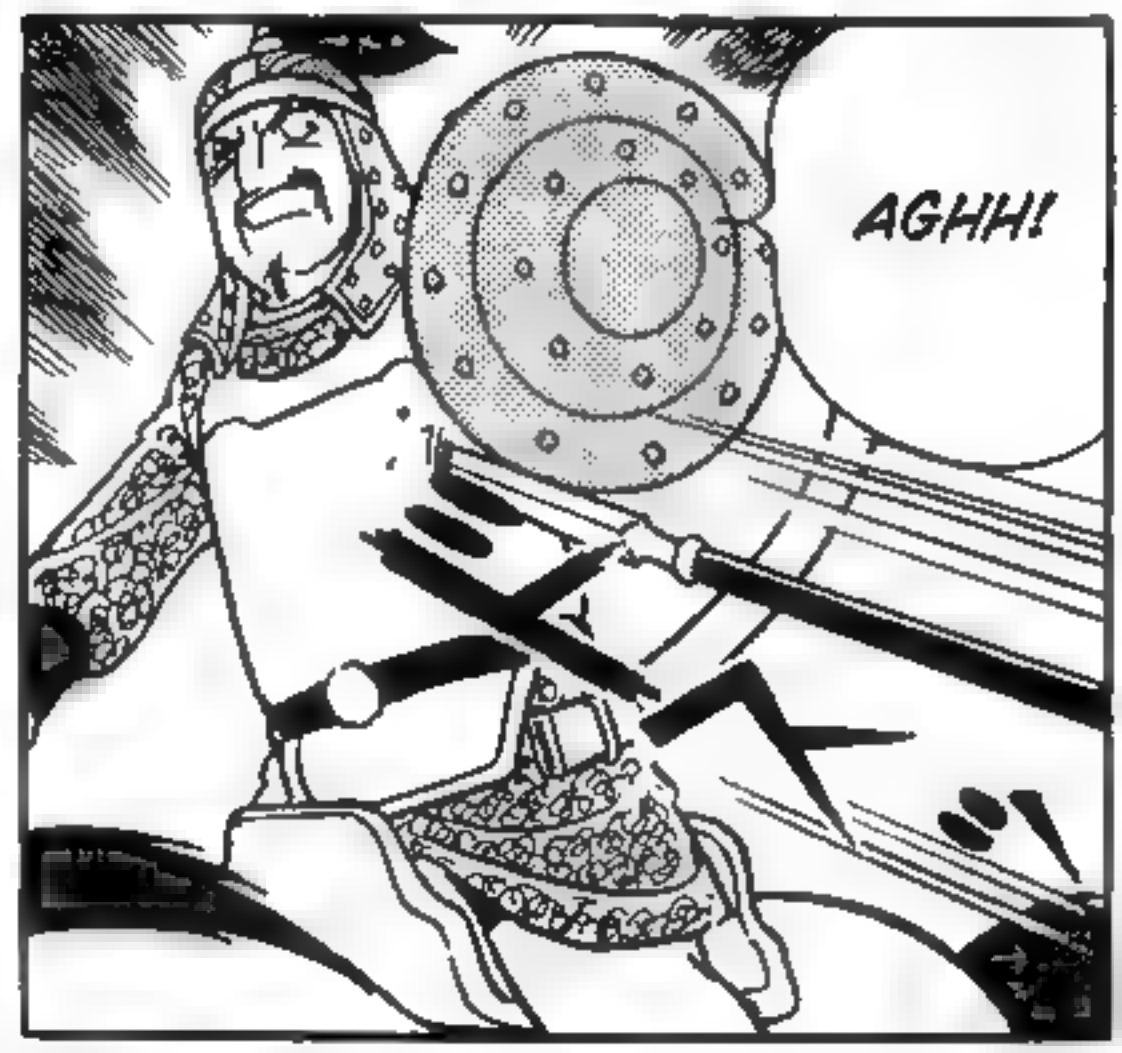

CLEAR THE WAY! I'LL DEAL WITH THE MANKUT LEADER!
I AM ACHIQ-SHIRUN OF THE TÜBEGENS! PREPARE TO RECEIVE MY LANCE!

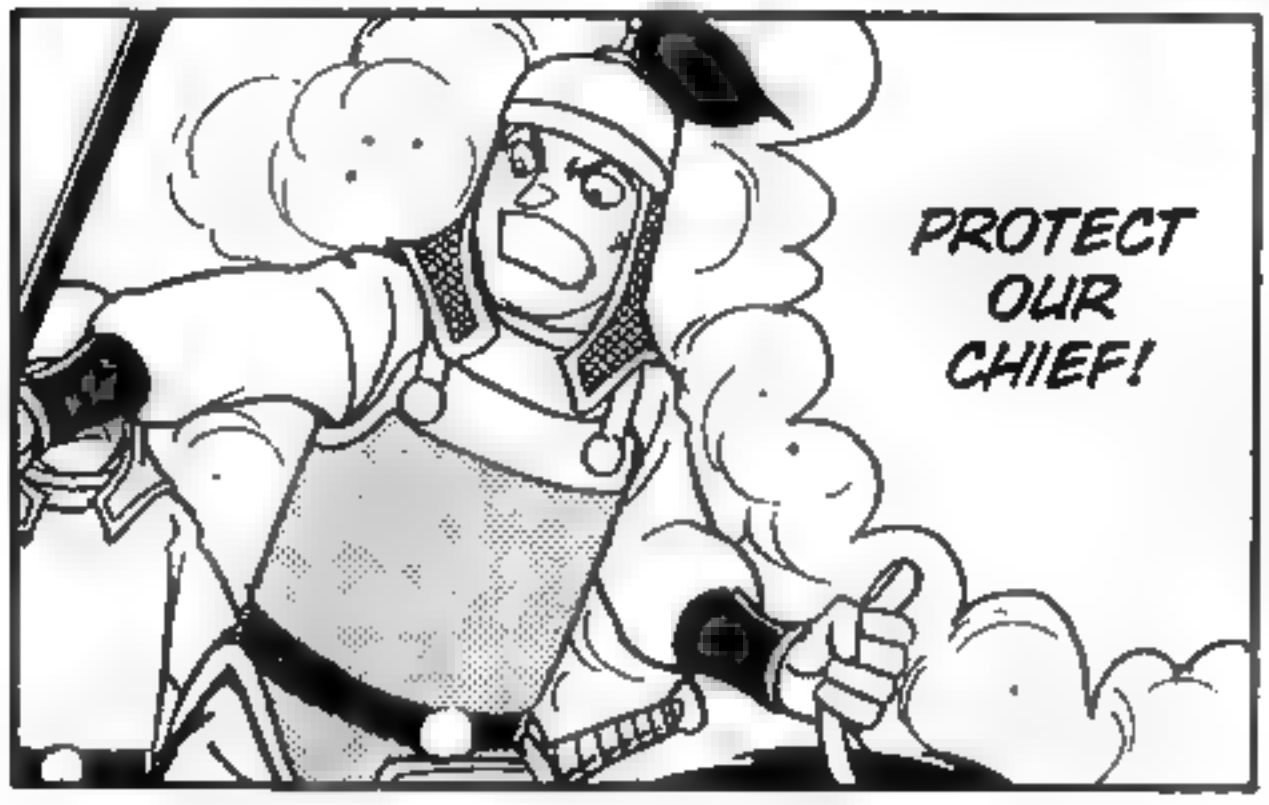


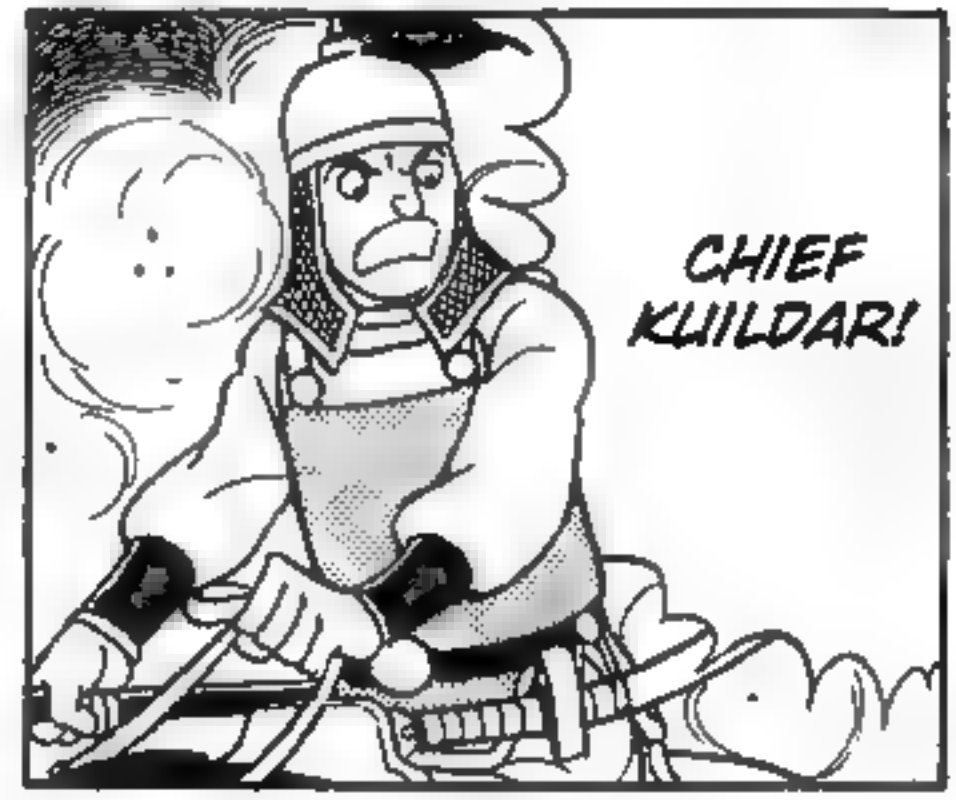







AGHH!


PROTECT
OUR
CHIEF!


CHIEF
KUILDAR!

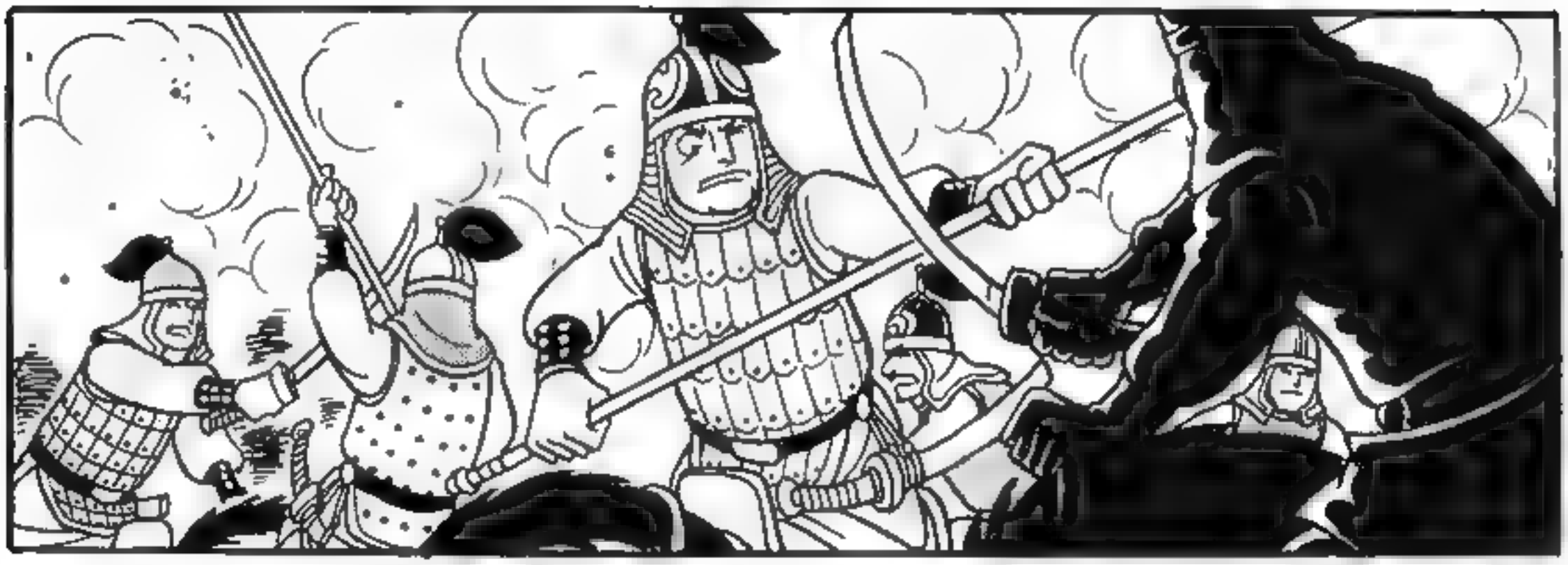
SEVERAL MANKUT TRIBESMEN CIRCLED AROUND THEIR CHIEF TO PROTECT HIM WHILE CONTINUING THEIR ATTACK.

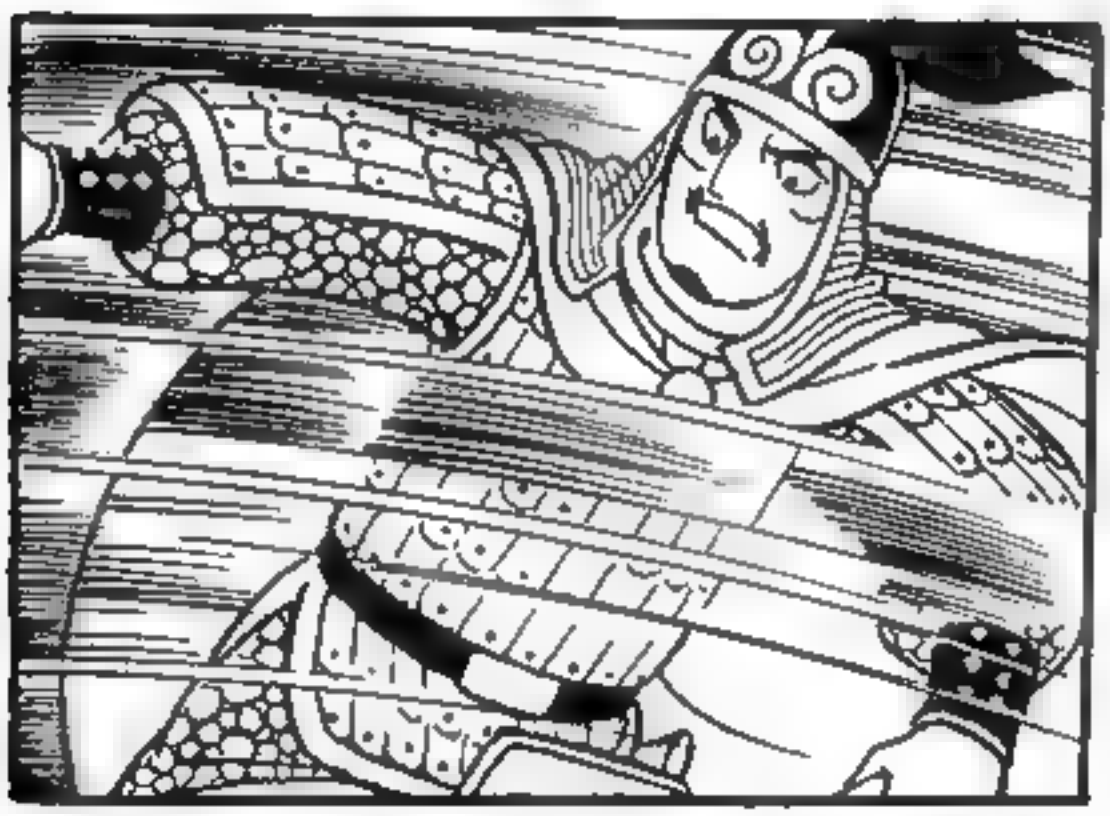
EVENTUALLY, THE URUD MANAGED TO ROUT THE TUBIGENS AS WELL.

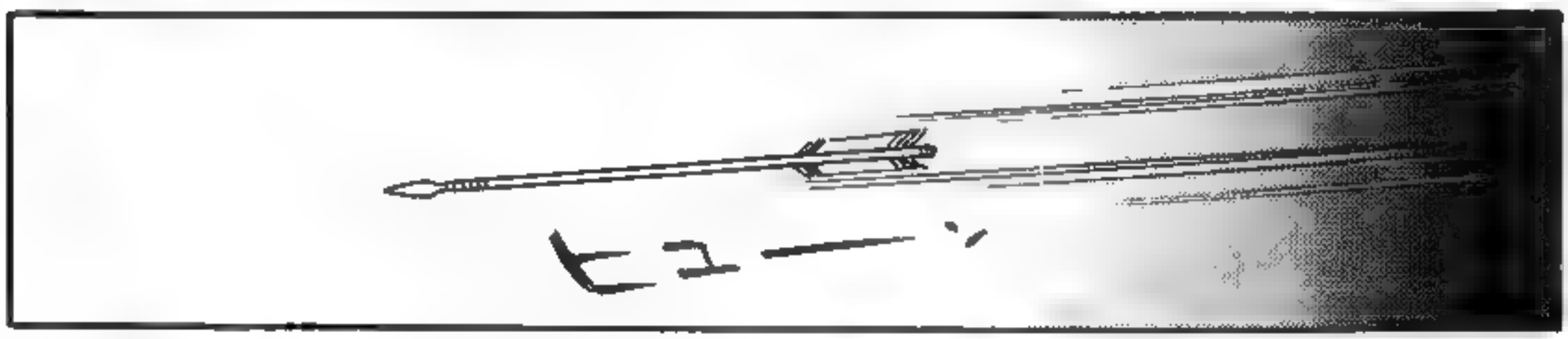
NOW THEY CAME CRASHING AGAINST THE DONGQAYITS.

T-THIS IS INSANE... WE HAVE THE NUMBERS AND YET THEY KEEP TEARING THROUGH OUR BATTLE LINES...!

I WILL NOT STAND BY AND WATCH THIS PATHETIC SIGHT ANY LONGER! IT IS TIME FOR US TO JOIN THE FRAY!



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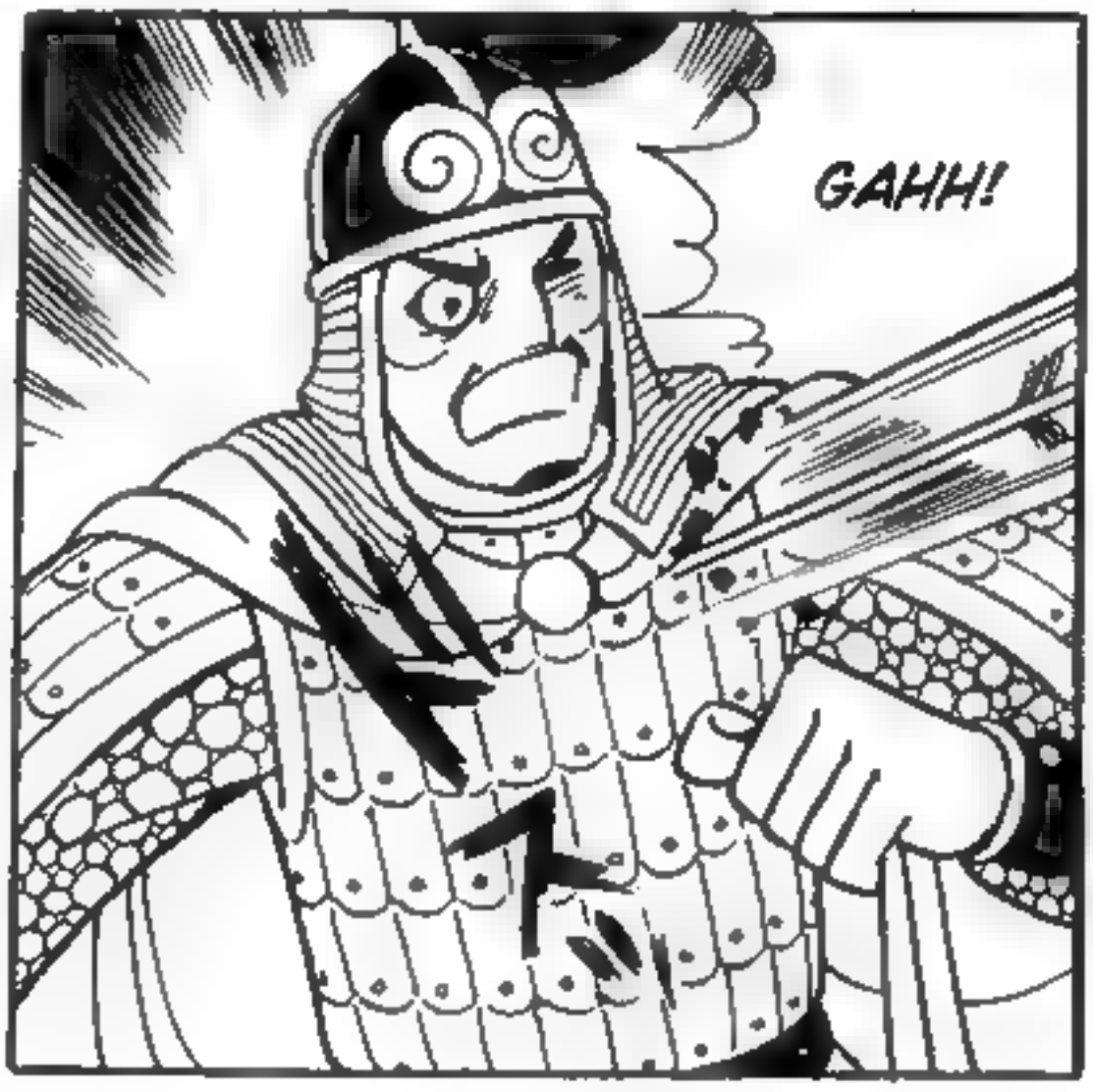
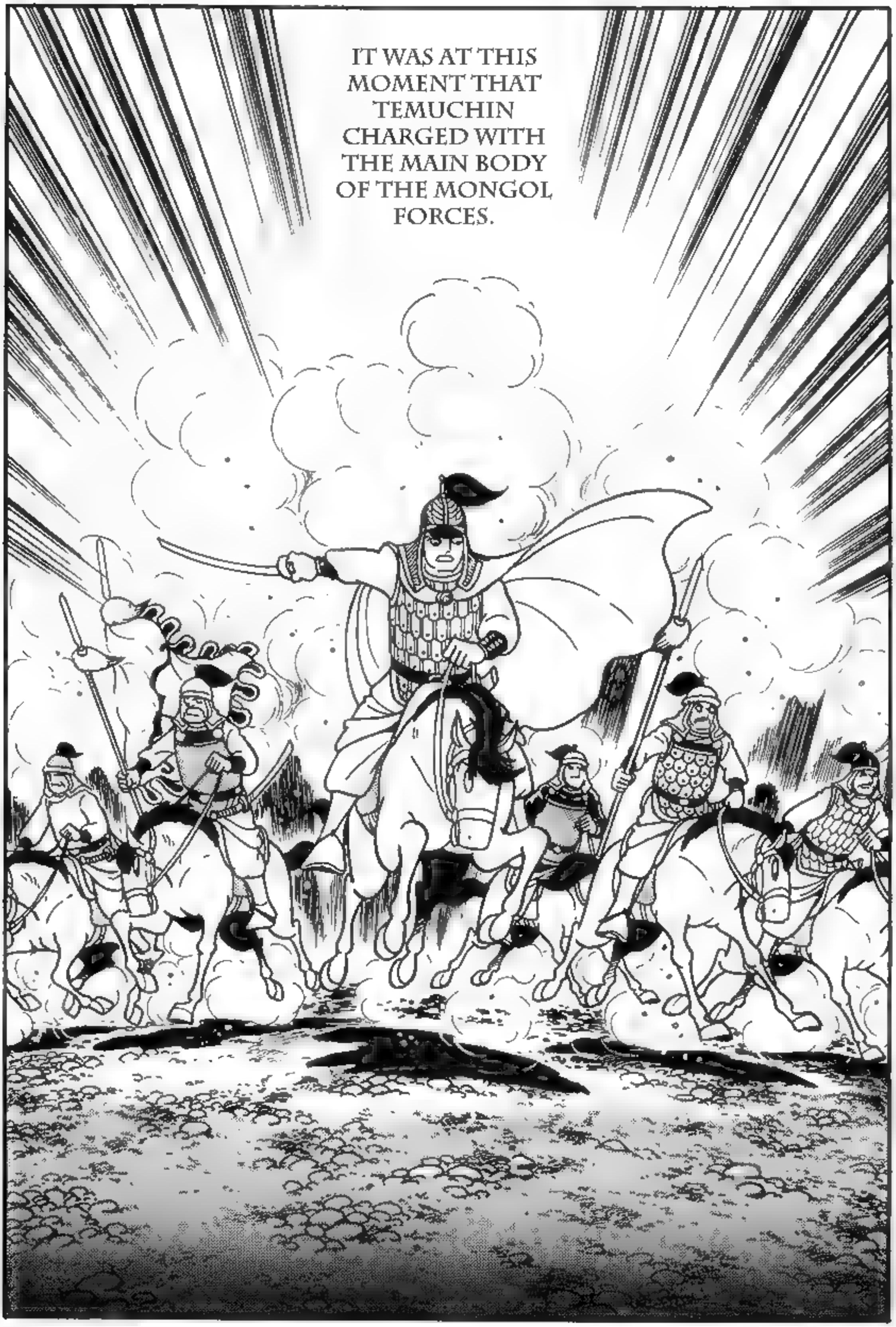

GAHH!

PROTECT OUR LORD SENGGUM!

AHHH!

I... I AM FINE. IT DID NOT PENETRATE DEEPLY.

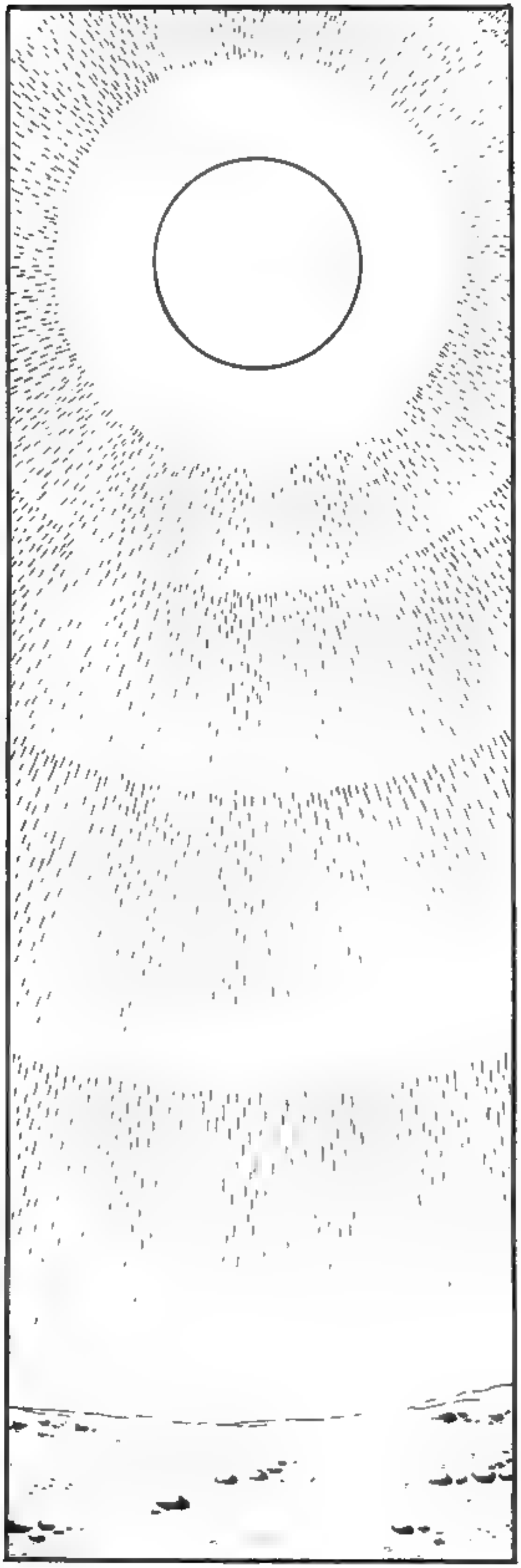
ARE YOU ALRIGHT, SIR!?


IT WAS AT THIS MOMENT THAT TEMUCHIN CHARGED WITH THE MAIN BODY OF THE MONGOL FORCES.

WITH BOTH SIDES HAVING COMMITTED THEIR RESERVES, THE CHAOS OF BATTLE GAVE RISE TO DUST CLOUDS, MAKING IT IMPOSSIBLE TO TELL WHO WAS WHERE AND WHAT WAS WHAT

YET STILL THE BATTLE CONTINUED LATE INTO THE NIGHT

Retreat



WE'VE LOST AT LEAST HALF OUR FORCES, KHAN.

HOW MANY DO OUR CASUALTIES NUMBER?

MOREOVER, BO'ORCHU, ÖGÖDEI, AND BOROGHUL ARE NOWHERE TO BE FOUND.

HALF!? THAT'S NOT GOOD...

YES, I'M AFRAID THEY MAY HAVE FALLEN IN BATTLE...

WHAT!? ALL THREE OF THEM!?

ÖGÖDFI WAS TEMUCHIN'S THIRD SON WHILE BOROGHUL WAS A WAR ORPHAN THAT TEMUCHIN HAD GIVEN HIS MOTHER TO RAISE AS ONE OF HER SONS.

WHAT A CATASTRO-PHE...

LOOK! SOMEONE'S APPROACHING FROM THE HORIZON!

BO'ORCHU!

BO'ORCHU!

I AM FINE, KHAN. FORGIVE ME FOR CAUSING YOU TO WORRY.

YOU'RE ALIVE! ARE YOU INJURED ANYWHERE!?

I COULD NOT BE HAPPIER AT YOUR SAFE RETURN!

MY HORSE BROKE ITS LEG DURING BATTLE, AND I WAS SUDDENLY THROWN OFF, HITTING MY HEAD AND LOSING CONSCIOUSNESS FOR SOME TIME.

KHAN, THERE'S ANOTHER MAN APPROACHING!

O' AZURE HEAVENS! I GIVE YOU MY DEEPEST GRATITUDE FOR RETURNING MY FAITHFUL COMPANION BO'ORCHU!

YOUR SON IS INJURED, MY KHAN.

MY SON ÖGÖDEI AND BOROGHUL!

YES, MY DEAR SON. YOU'VE PROVEN THAT THE BLOOD OF THE BLUE-GRAY WOLF FLOWS IN YOU. BUT NOW IS THE TIME FOR YOU TO REST.

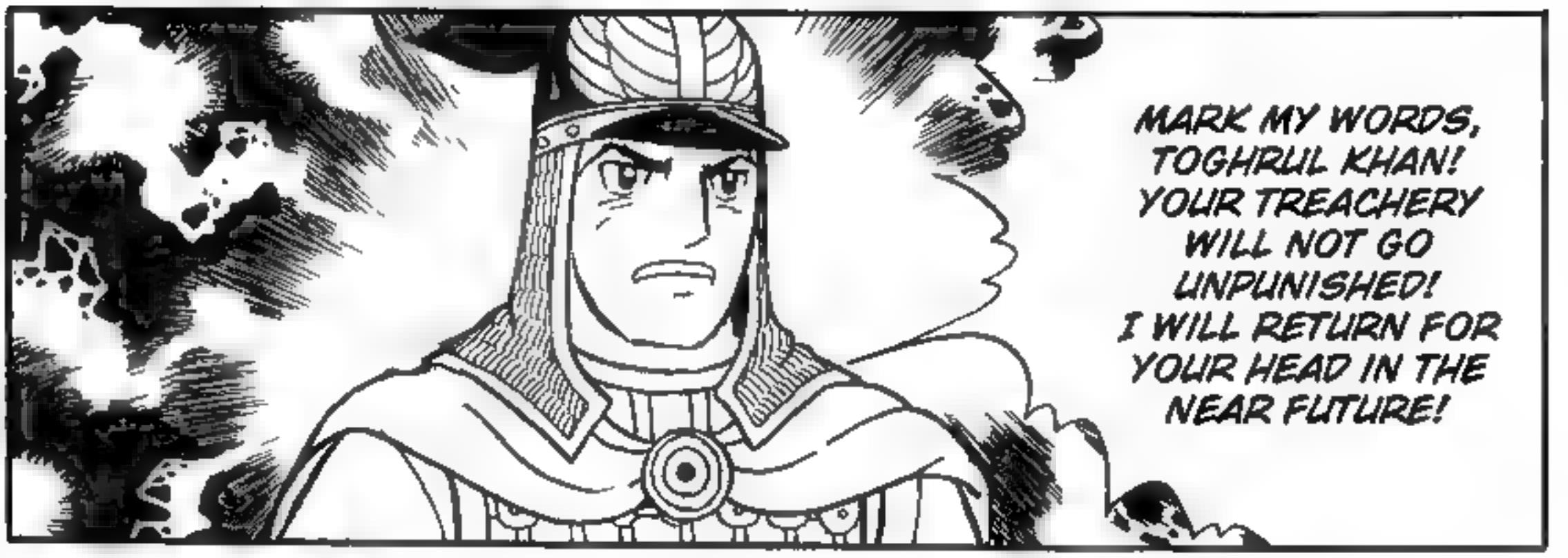
F... FATHER... I... I CAN... I CAN STILL FIGHT...

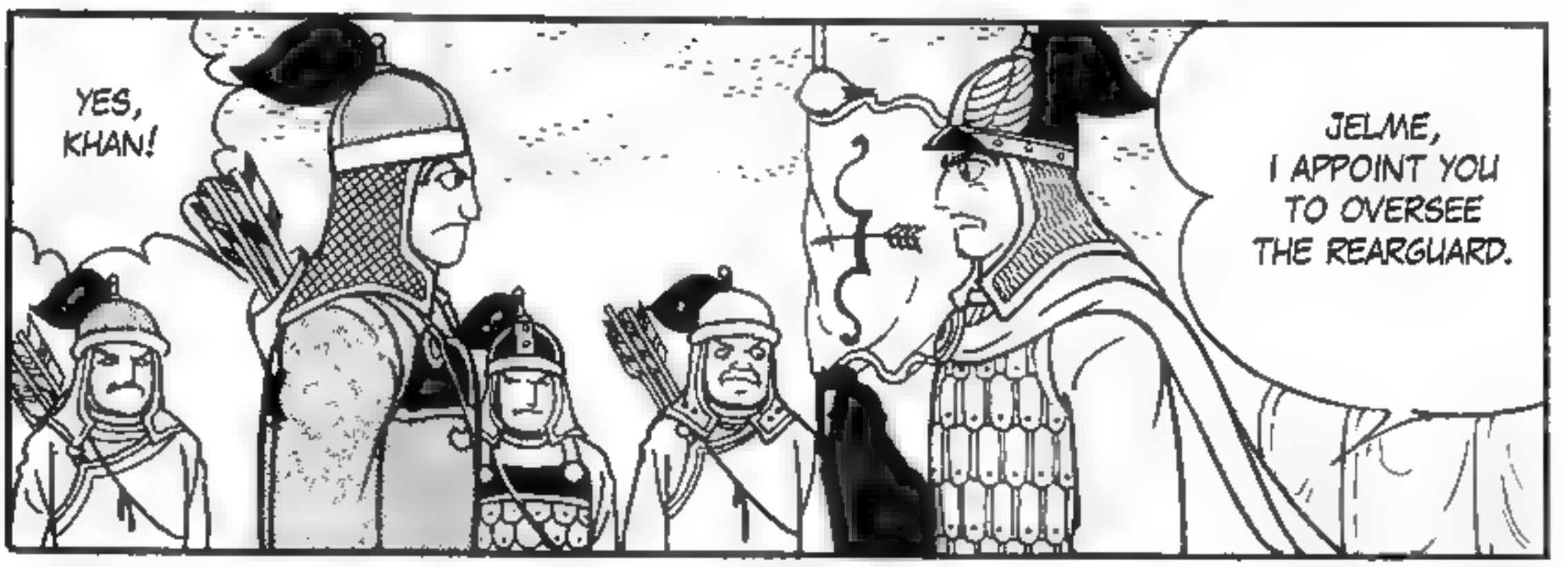
ÖGÖDEI! STAY STRONG!

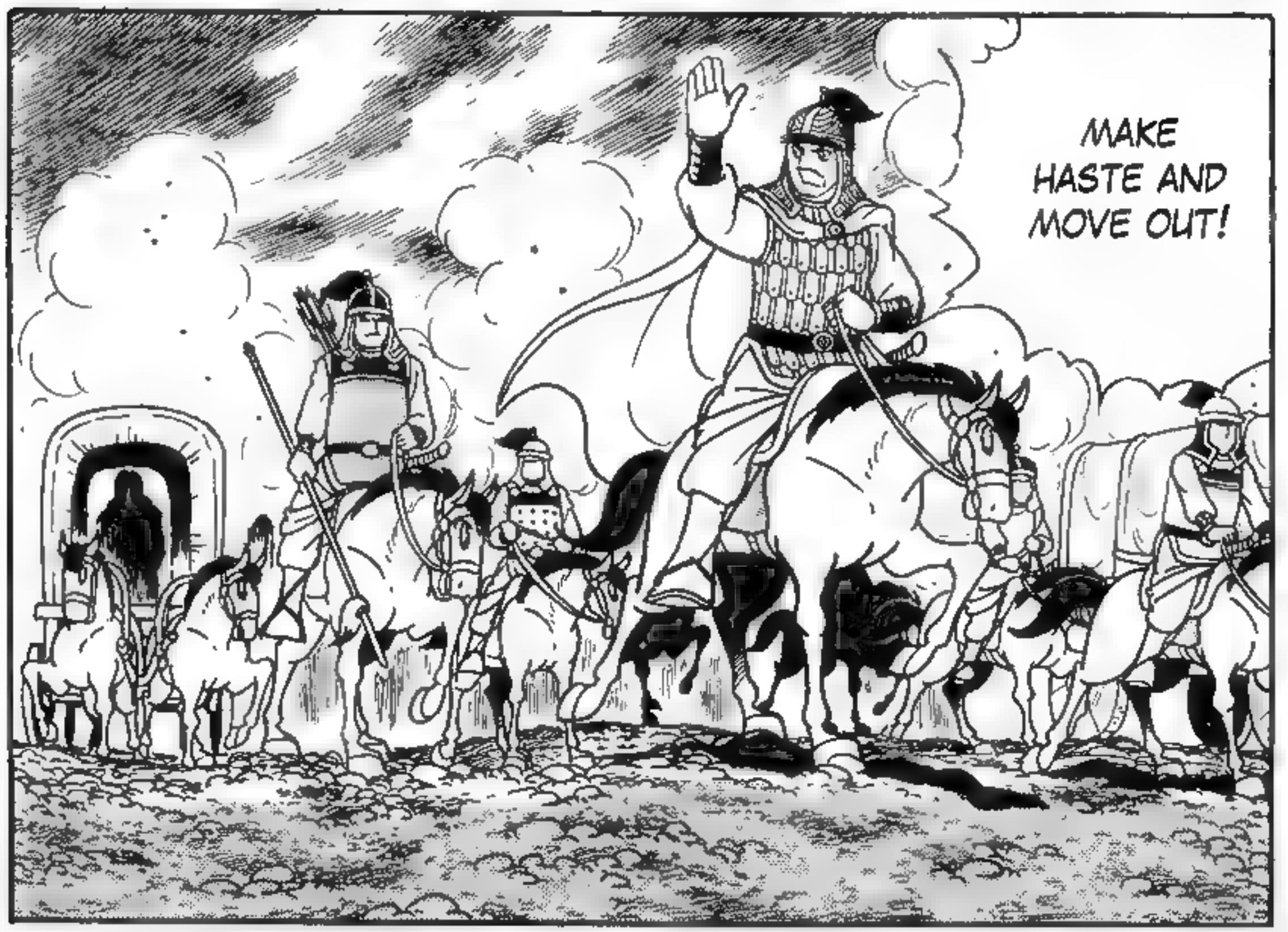
YES, KHAN!

ATTEND TO MY SON'S WOUNDS AT ONCE!

YOU WILL BE RESTORED TO YOUR FORMER VIGOUR IN NO TIME, SIR.
OUR CASUALTIES ARE HEAVY WHILE THE ENEMIES STILL HAVE A SUBSTANTIAL FORCE REMAINING. CONTINUING TO STAND OUR GROUND HERE WILL ONLY GET US ANNHILATED.
WHAT SHALL WE DO NOW, BROTHER?
UNDERSTOOD.
WE MUST FLEE WHILE WE CAN AND REGROUP.

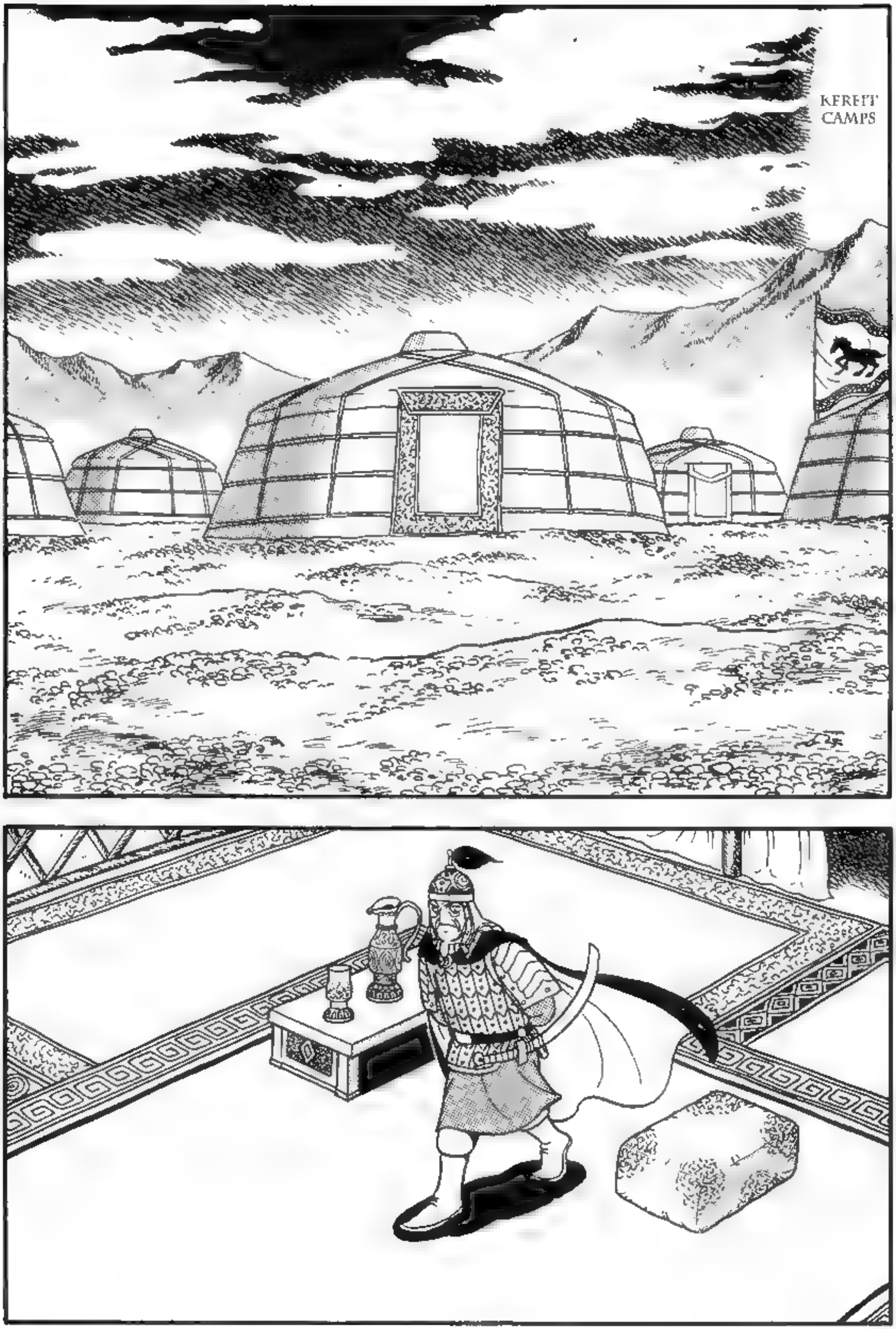

MARK MY WORDS, TOGHRUL KHAN! YOUR TREACHERY WILL NOT GO UNPUNISHED! I WILL RETURN FOR YOUR HEAD IN THE NEAR FUTURE!


YES, KHAN!
JELME, I APPOINT YOU TO OVERSEE THE REARGUARD.


MAKE HASTE AND MOVE OUT!

TEMUCHIN AND THE MONGOLS HEADED EAST, DOWN-STREAM THE KHALKHA RIVER.

JELME AND THE REARGUARD KEPT SOME DISTANCE BEHIND THE MAIN BODY AS TO DELAY ANY KEREIT PURSUIT. THEY WERE PREPARED TO GIVE THEIR LIVES UP TO ALLOW THE REST OF THE MONGOLS TO ESCAPE

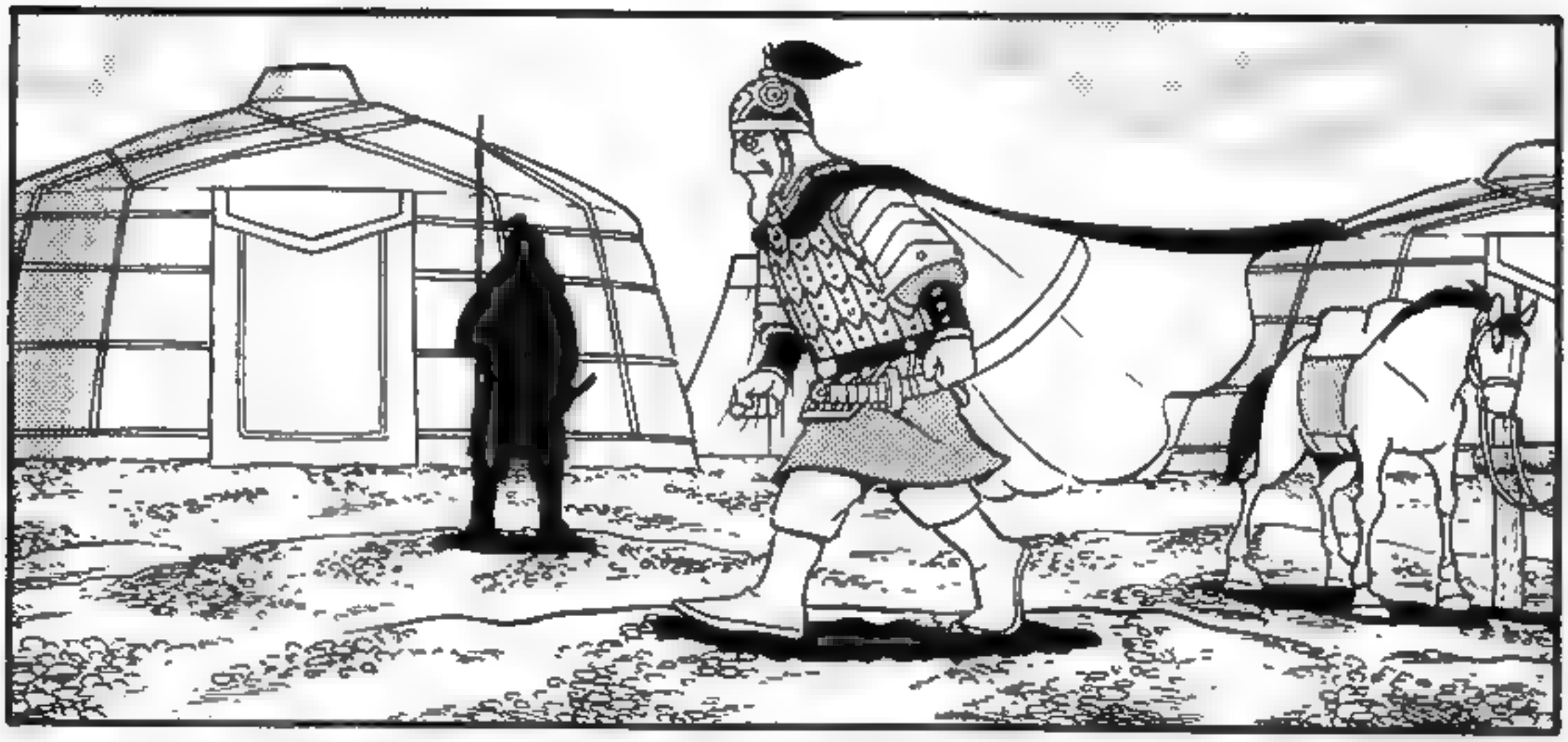

KERETT
CAMPS

WANG KHAN, THE MONGOLS HAVE BEGUN TO RETREAT.

SENGGUM'S WOUND WAS MUCH LIGHTER THAN WE HAD FEARED. HE WILL RECOVER TO FULL STRENGTH IN NO TIME.

I DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT! HOW IS MY SON'S CONDITION!?

OH THANK HEAVENS.



A LITTLE SORE, BUT OTHERWISE FINE, FATHER.

HOW ARE YOU FEELING, MY SON?

I WANT AN IMMEDIATE PURSUIT ON THE MONGOLS! WE MUST PUT AN END TO TEMUCHIN'S LIFE FOR GOOD!

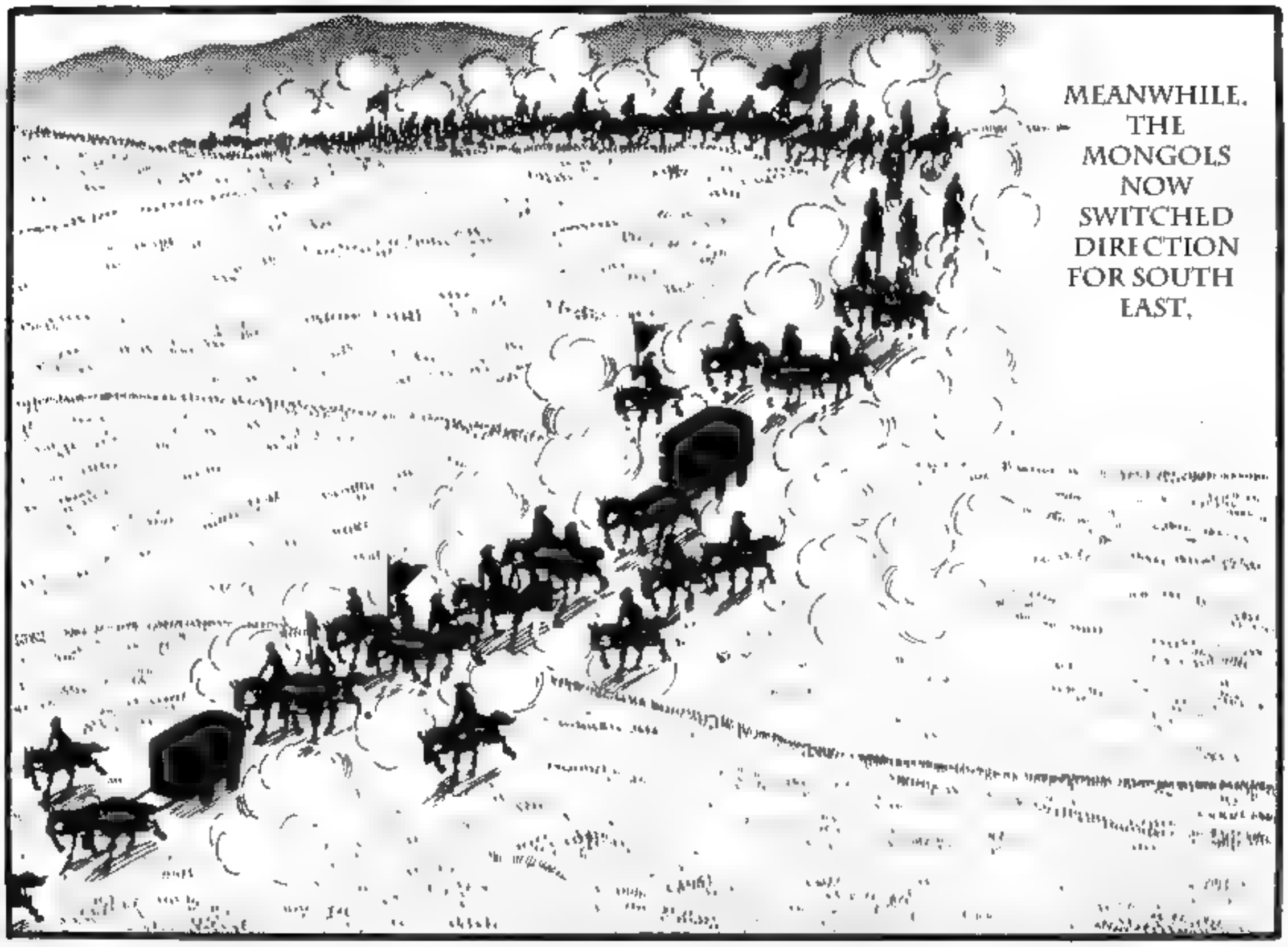
YES, FATHER.

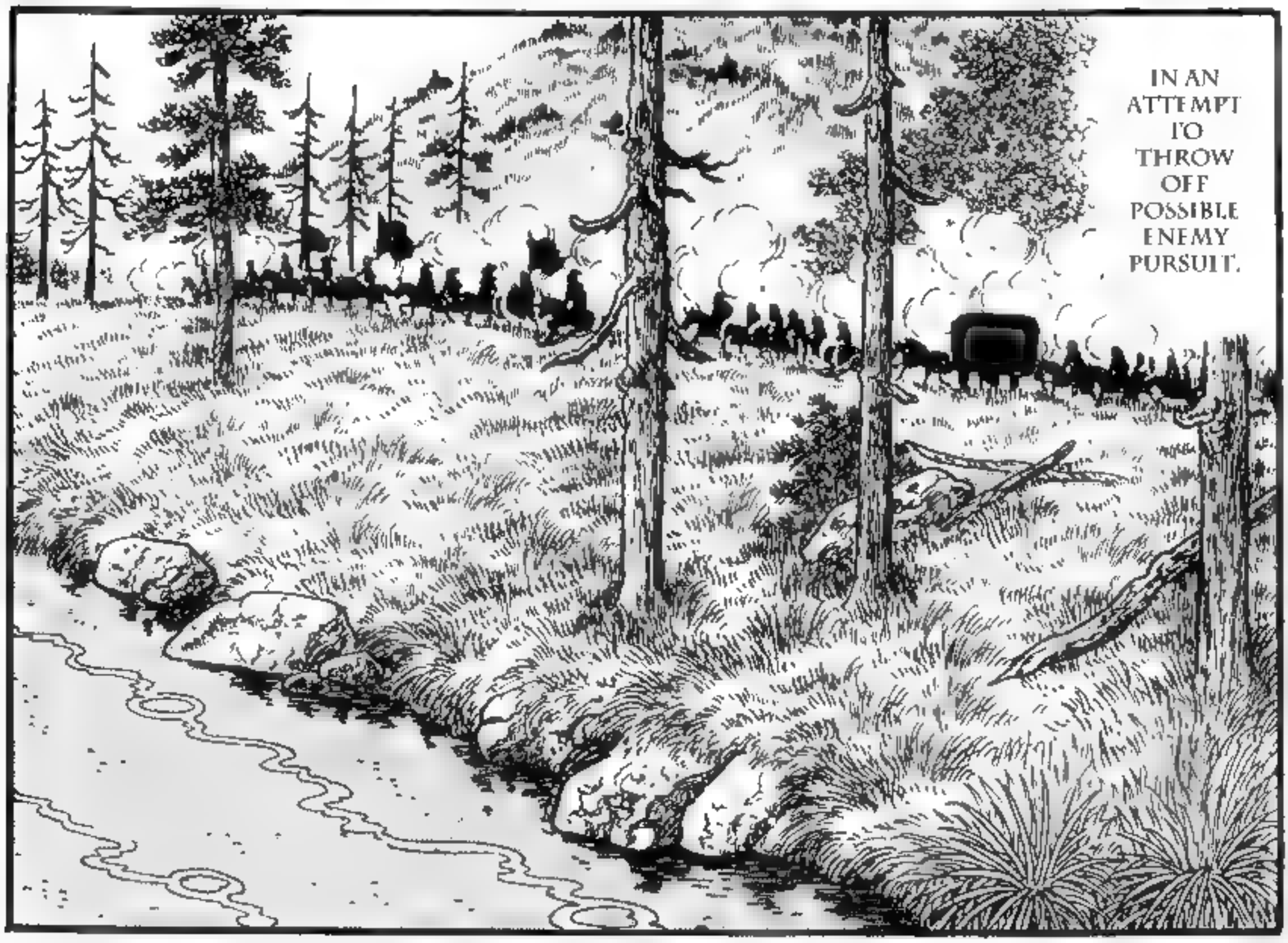
GOOD, YOU LIE HERE AND REST. LET ME DEAL WITH TEMUCHIN.

ARE YOU SAYING I SHOULD JUST LET THEM ESCAPE!?

WANG KHAN, THE MONGOLS HAVE LOST OVER HALF THEIR FORCES FROM THE RECENT BATTLE. THERE IS NO NEED TO SO FRANTICALLY PURSUE AFTER THEM. IN FACT, DOING SO MAY ONLY MAKE THEM PUT UP AN EVEN STIFFER RESISTANCE AND FIGHT TO THE VERY END. BOTH WOUNDED BEASTS AND FOES MUST BE GIVEN A VISIBLE ESCAPE ROUTE, SO THEY CAN BE MORE EASILY PICKED OFF.

OF COURSE NOT. WITH JAMUKA, ALTAN, AND KUCHAR'S FORCES ON OUR SIDE, THE WEAKENED MONGOLS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO CONTEND WITH US ANYMORE. THUS, IT IS BETTER FOR US TO TAKE OUR TIME IN PREPARING TO DELIVER THE FINISHING BLOW, ESPECIALLY SINCE CASUALTIES FOR OUR SIDE HAS NOT BEEN LIGHT EITHER.
HMM... A POSSIBLE INTERNAL FRACTURE?
IN FACT, THE MONGOLS MAY CRUMBLE FROM WITHIN EVEN BEFORE WE DELIVER THE FATAL BLOW. THE RECENT STINGING DEFEAT WILL NO DOUBT CAUSE SEVERAL MONGOL TRIBAL CHIEFS TO RECONSIDER WHOSE SIDE THEY WISH TO STAY ON.
FINE, I WILL DO AS YOU SUGGEST AND HOLD OFF THE PURSUIT FOR NOW.


MEANWHILE, THE MONGOLS NOW SWITCHED DIRECTION FOR SOUTH EAST.


IN AN ATTEMPT TO THROW OFF POSSIBLE ENEMY PURSUIT.

KHAN! KUILDAR'S CONDITION HAS TAKEN A TURN FOR THE WORSE!

M...
MY KHAN...

KUILDAR!

BUT AS MUCH AS I WISH TO CONTINUE MY SERVICE, I'M AFRAID MY TIME HAS COME...

THANK YOU FOR VALUING ME SO, MY KHAN...

STAY STRONG, KUILDAR. WE MAY HAVE BEEN BEATEN BACK FOR THE MOMENT, BUT WE ARE NOT YET DEFEATED. I STILL REQUIRE YOUR STRENGTH.

DO NOT UTTER SUCH WEAK WORDS.

YOU KNOW I WOULD NEVER BREAK MY WORD!

I ONLY ASK THAT YOU RAISE MY CHILDREN WELL AS PROMISED.

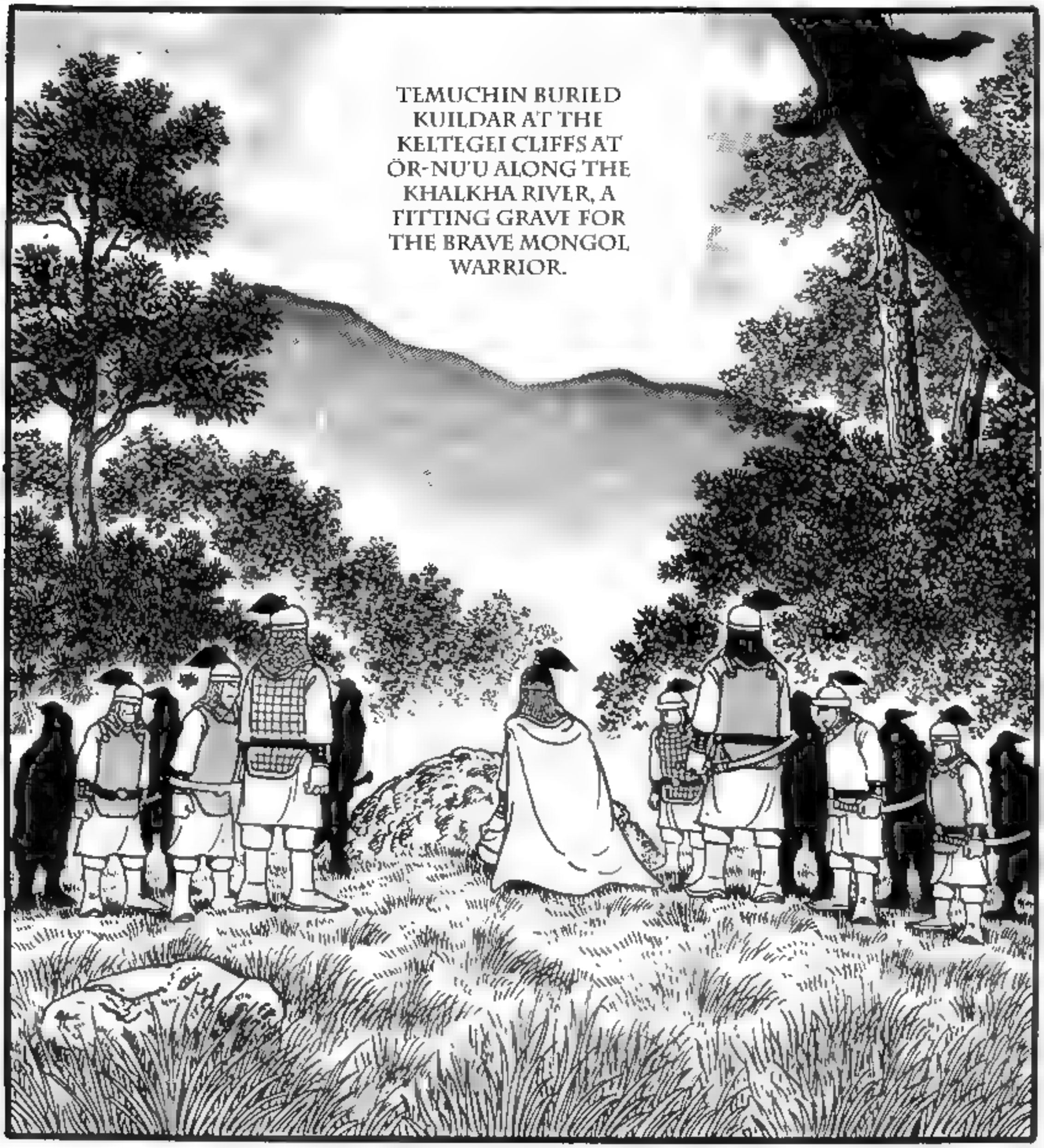
I HOPE... THAT MY KHAN WILL... BECOME THE SUPREME LORD OF THE STEPPE...

THEN IT SEEMS I CAN DIE WITHOUT WORRY...

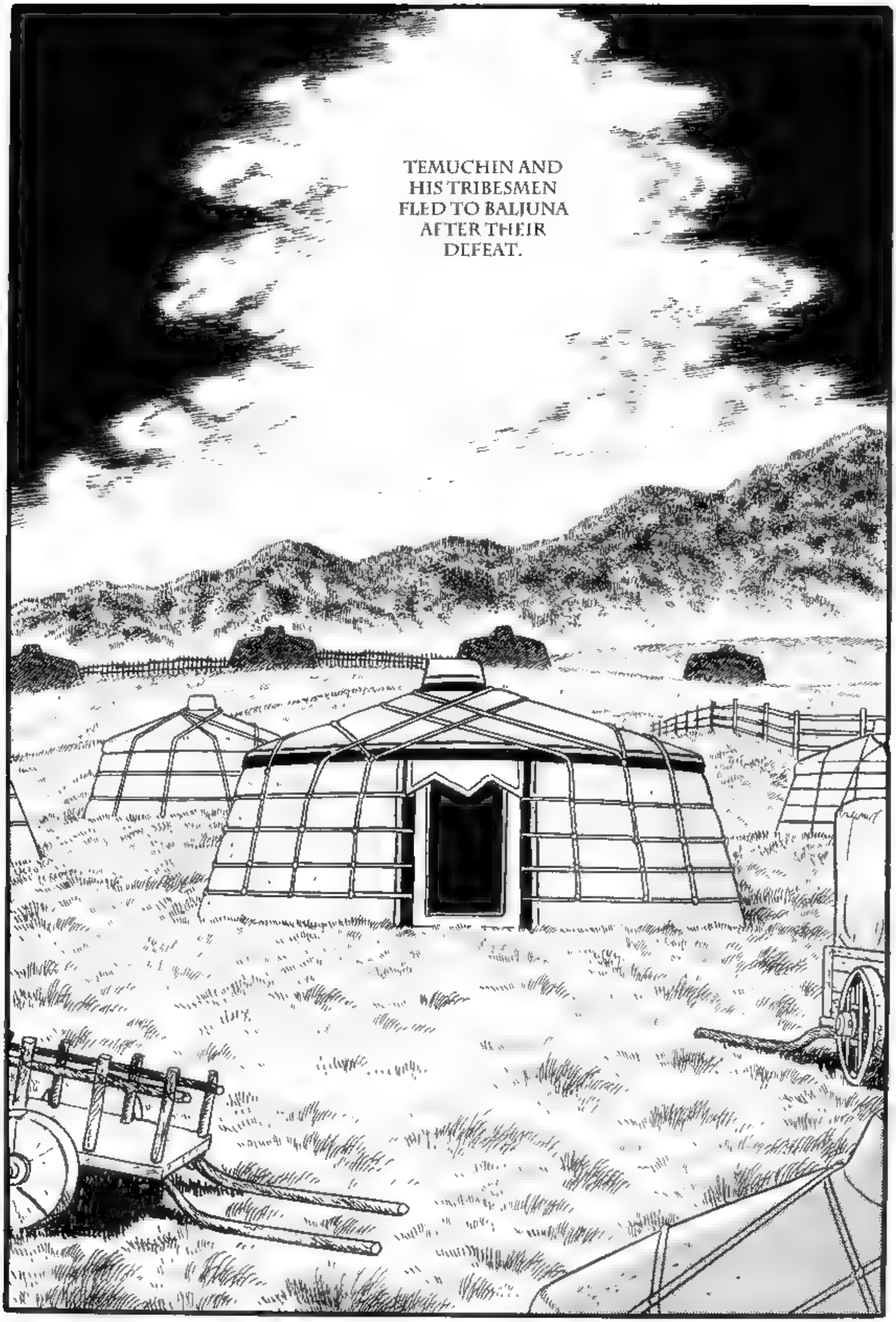
KUILDAR!

THERE WAS NO RESPONSE FROM THE MANKUT LEADER. FIERCE AS HE WAS, THE LANCE WOUND PROVED TO BE TOO MUCH FOR KUILDAR.

TEARS FLOWED DOWN THE FACE OF A MAN WHO SWORE TO STIFLE ALL WEAKNESS.


TEMUCHIN BURIED KUILDAR AT THE KELTEGEI CLIFFS AT ÖR-NU'U ALONG THE KHALKHA RIVER, A FITTING GRAVE FOR THE BRAVE MONGOL WARRIOR.

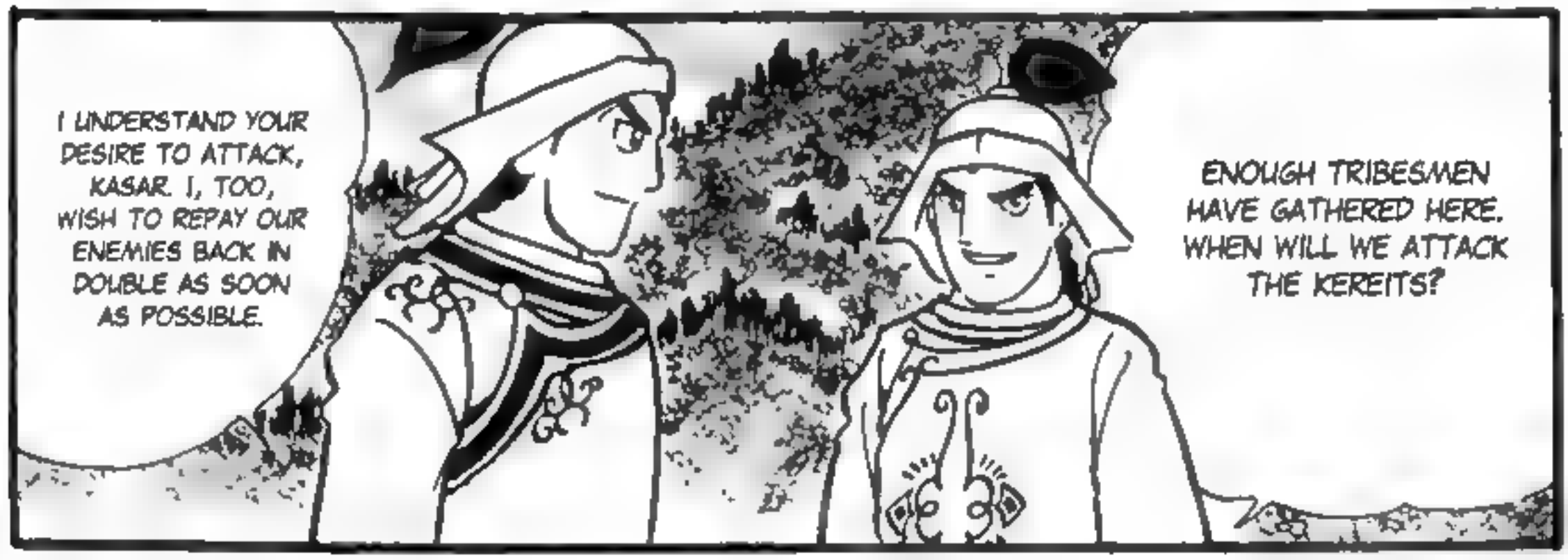
Never - Ending Intrigues


TEMUCHIN AND
HIS TRIBESMEN
FLED TO BALJUNA
AFTER THEIR
DEFEAT.

THERE, THE TRIBES THAT HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BATTLE OF KALAKALZHIT DESERT GATHERED.

AS MORE AND MORE OF THEM ARRIVED IT BEGAN TO SEEM THAT THE MONGOLS WERE ON THEIR WAY TO A STEADY RECOVERY

YES, KASAR?
BROTHER.


I UNDERSTAND YOUR DESIRE TO ATTACK, KASAR. I, TOO, WISH TO REPAY OUR ENEMIES BACK IN DOUBLE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
ENOUGH TRIBESMEN HAVE GATHERED HERE. WHEN WILL WE ATTACK THE KEREITS?

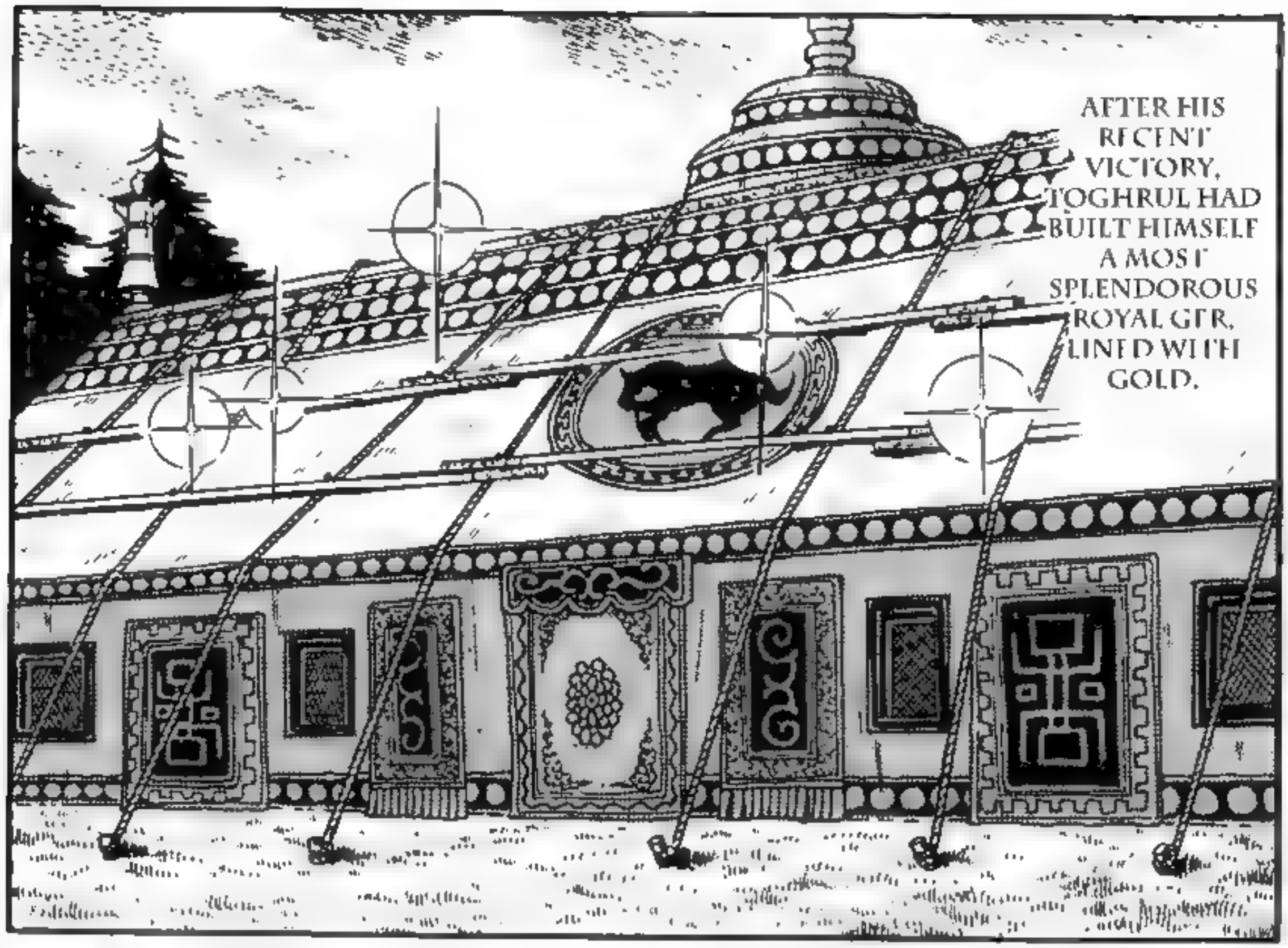
HOWEVER, OUR LOSSES AT KALAKALZHIT WERE HEAVY AND THE KEREITS ARE STILL TOO STRONG FOR US. ATTACKING NOW MAY BE TO RUSH INTO OUR OWN DESTRUCTION.

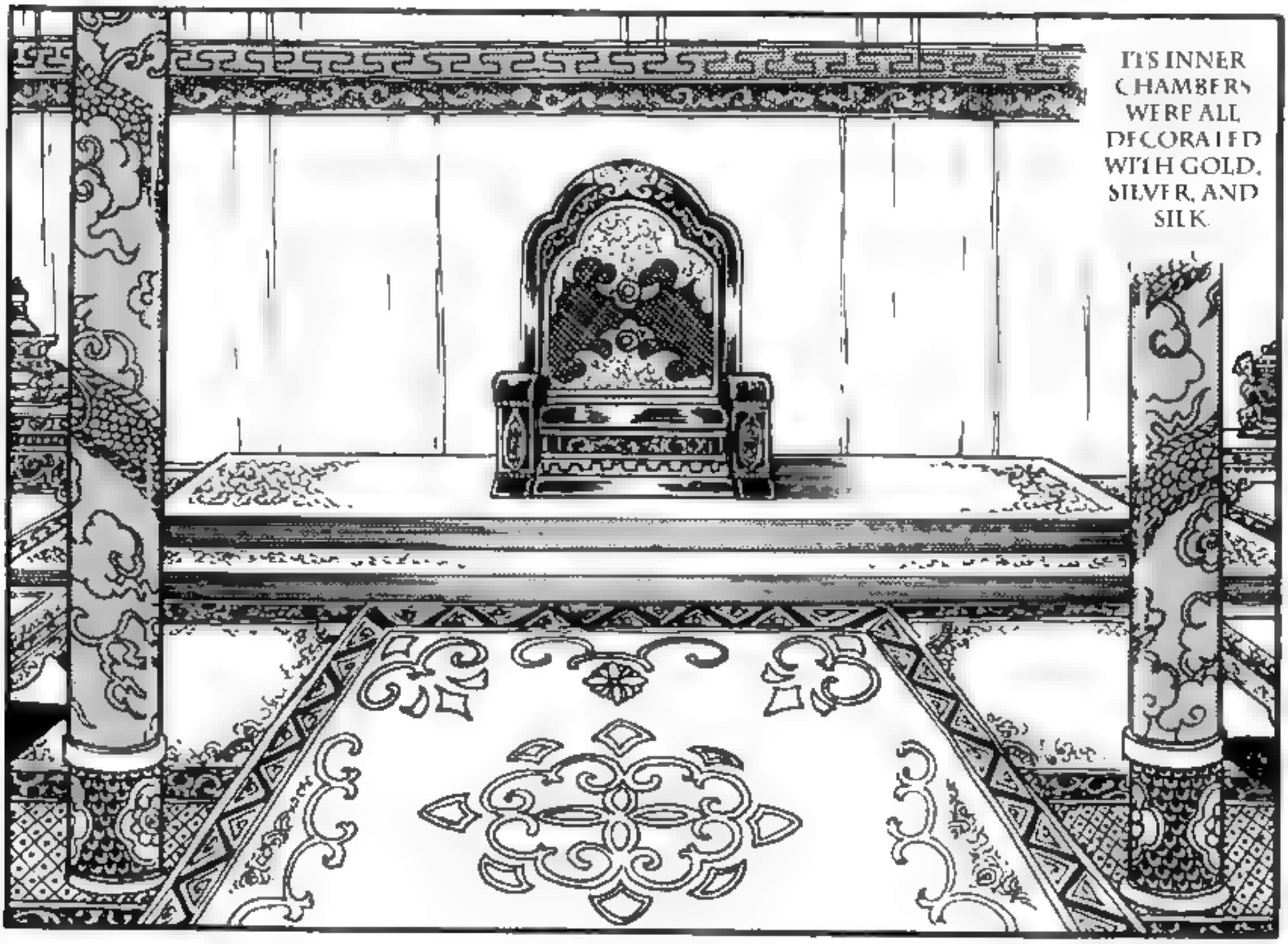
THEY MUST UNDERESTI-MATE US.

AND SPEAKING OF THE KEREITS, I'M CONFUSED AS TO WHY THEY HAVE NOT YET PURSUED US.

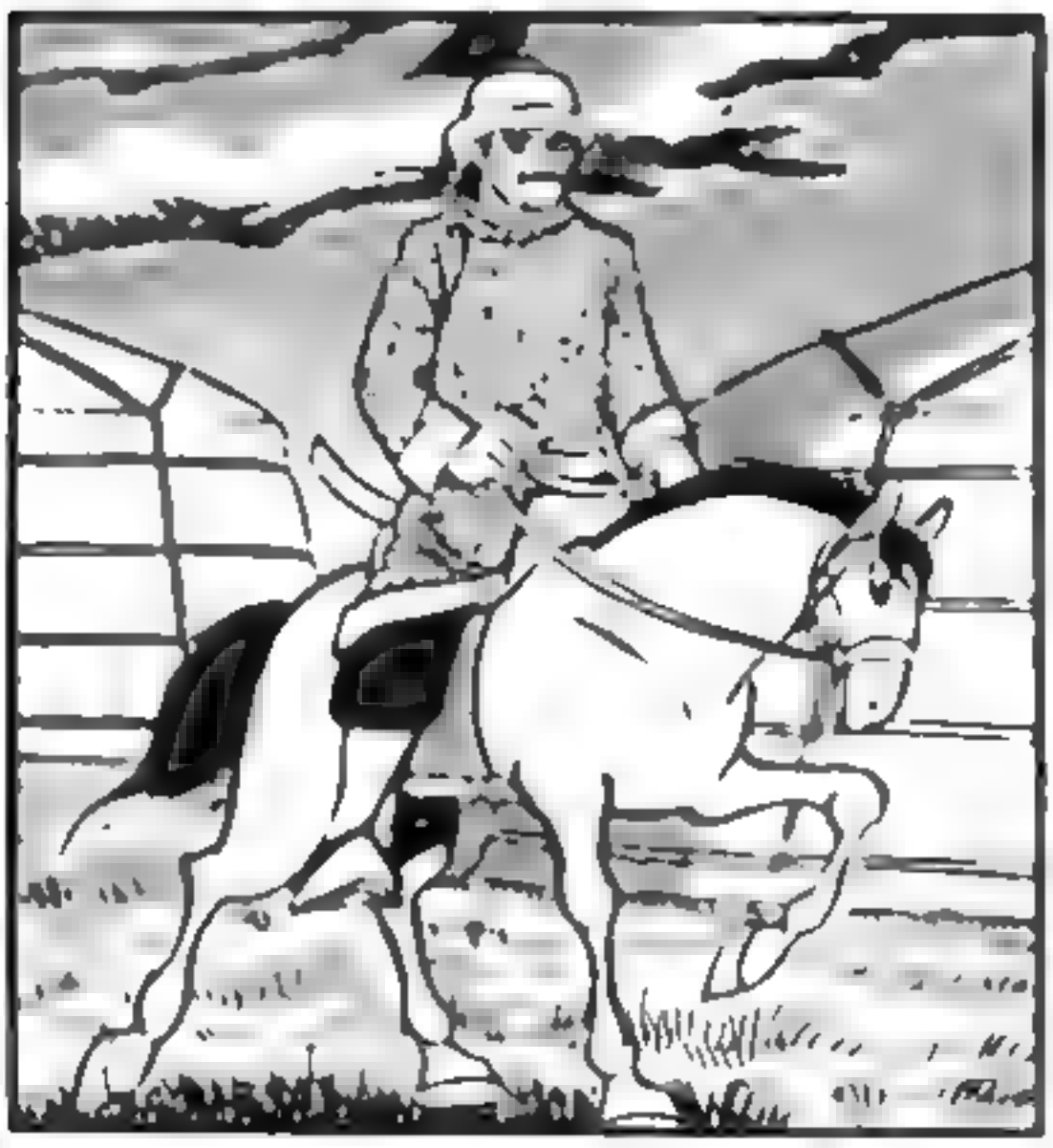
YES.

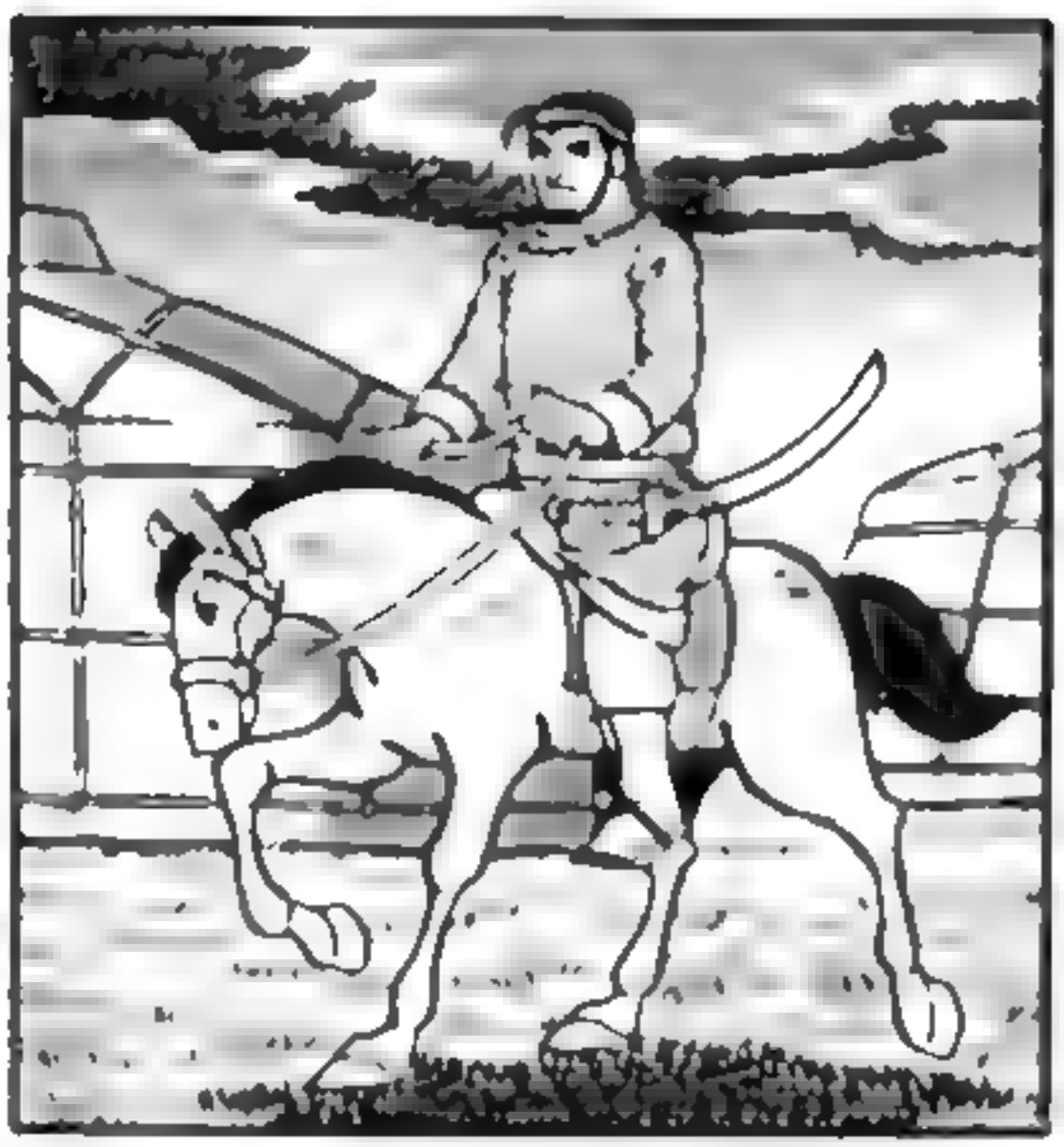
PERHAPS, BUT I THINK WE BETTER SEND OUT A FEW SPIES AND ASCERTAIN WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON.


AFTER HIS RECENT VICTORY, TOGHRUL HAD BUILT HIMSELF A MOST SPLENDOROUS ROYAL GER, LINED WITH GOLD.


ITS INNER CHAMBERS WERE ALL DECORATED WITH GOLD, SILVER, AND SILK.

JAMUKA S
CAMPS





HM? ALL THE CHIEFS ARE HEADING INSIDE JAMUKA'S GER...

THIS MAN WAS A SPY THAT TOGHRUL HAD PLACED IN JAMUKA'S CAMPS TO KEEP TABS ON HIM

I WONDER WHAT'S GOING ON...

WHAT HAS BECOME OF HIS PROMISE?

TOGHRUL PROMISED TO SHARE THE CONQUERED LANDS WITH HIS ALLIES FOR SUPPORTING HIM, YET HE SHOWS NO SIGN OF HANDING ANYTHING OVER.

CALM YOUR HEARTS, MEN. WE HAVE WANG KHAN TO THANK FOR PUTTING A CHECK ON TEMUCHIN'S POWER.

HE TREATS US MORE OF AS HIS VASSALS THAN ALLIES. WILL YOU STAND FOR THIS TREATMENT, JAMUKA?

SO WE ARE TO SIT CONTENT WITH HIS RULE?

FOR THE TIME BEING, HE IS THE UNDISPUTED RULER OF THE STEPPE.

WHAT DO YOU THINK WILL HAPPEN ONCE TOGHRUL DIES?

LET ME FINISH TALKING FIRST.

IN THE ENSUING CONFLICT, I WILL CHALLENGE SENGGUM'S THRONE AND TAKE OVER.

SENGGUM HAS NEITHER THE BRAINS NOR BRAWNS TO KEEP THE KEREITS AND SUBORDINATE TRIBES UNDER HIS THUMB.

SO YOU WANT US TO JUST SIT STILL UNTIL TOGHRUL DIES?

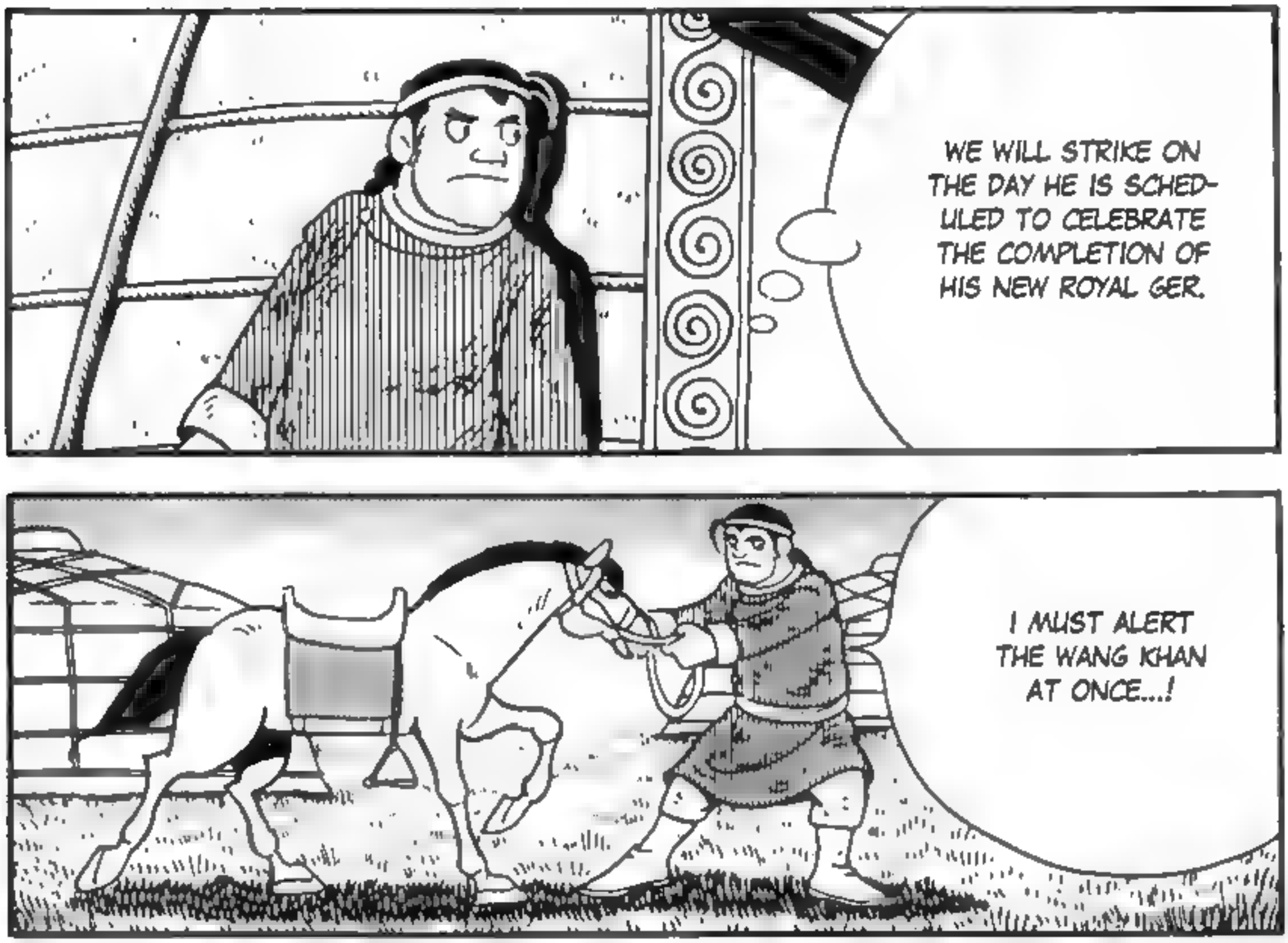
HE WILL NOT LIVE LONG, ESPECIALLY IF ONE WERE TO TAKE HIM IN A SURPRISE ATTACK...

IT'S HARDLY A MATTER OF BETRAYAL. NONE OF US EVER INTENDED FROM THE START TO BECOME TOGHRUL'S LOYAL SUBJECTS.

STAB HIM IN THE BACK!?

WHEN SHALL WE ATTACK THEN?

WE ONLY STUCK BY HIM LONG ENOUGH TO SEE TEMUCHIN'S INFLUENCE SHRINK. NOW THAT THAT'S DONE, IT'S TIME WE SET OUR SIGHTS ON HIGHER TARGETS...


WE WILL STRIKE ON THE DAY HE IS SCHED-ULED TO CELEBRATE THE COMPLETION OF HIS NEW ROYAL GER.
I MUST ALERT THE WANG KHAN AT ONCE...!

YES, WANG KHAN.

JAMUKA IS PLANNING TO TAKE ME BY SURPRISE?

YES, WANG KHAN.

THANK YOU FOR WARNING ME. YOU MAY EXCUSE YOURSELF NOW.

SO YOU FINALLY BARE YOUR FANGS, EH, JAMUKA? FORTUNATELY, I NEVER TRUSTED YOU FROM THE START, HAHA...

YES, WANG KHAN.

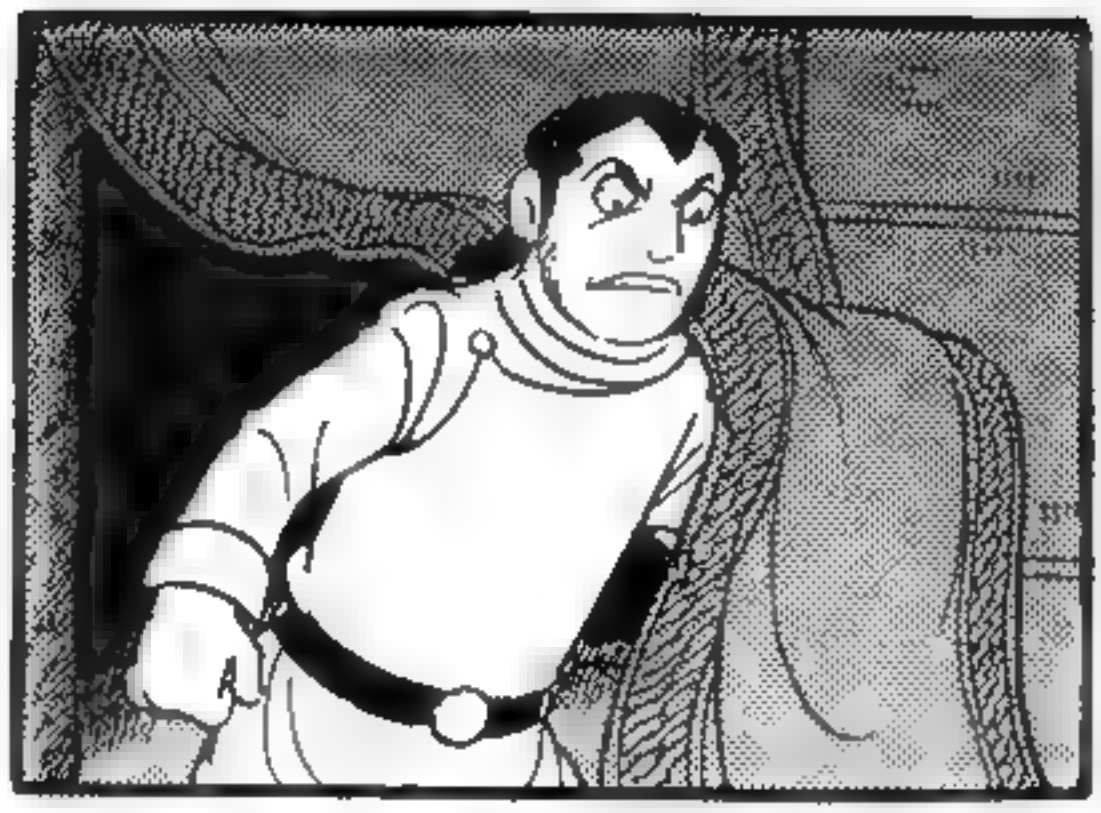
ASSEMBLE THE TROOPS!

LET US PUNISH THE TRAITOROUS SCUM!

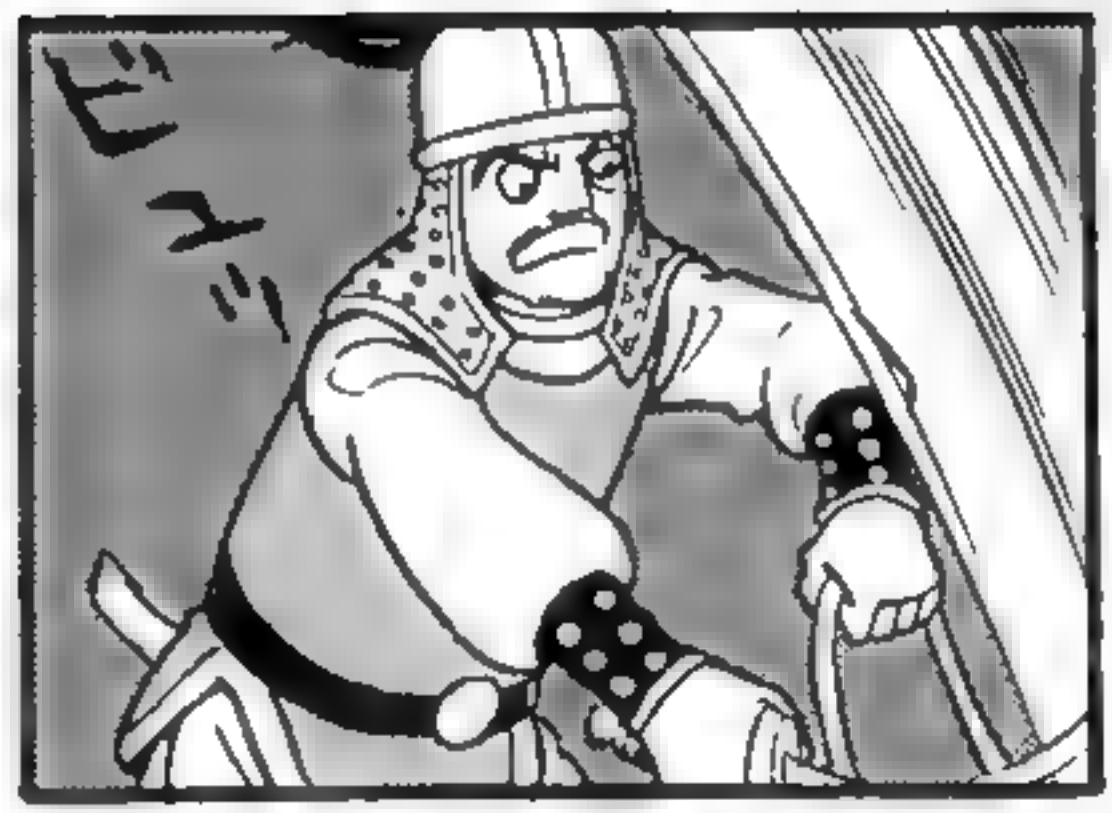
YES, FATHER.
LET THIS BE A LESSON TO YOU, SENGGUM. NEVER TRUST THOSE WHO DO NOTHING BUT WHISPER PLEASANTRIES TO YOUR EAR.

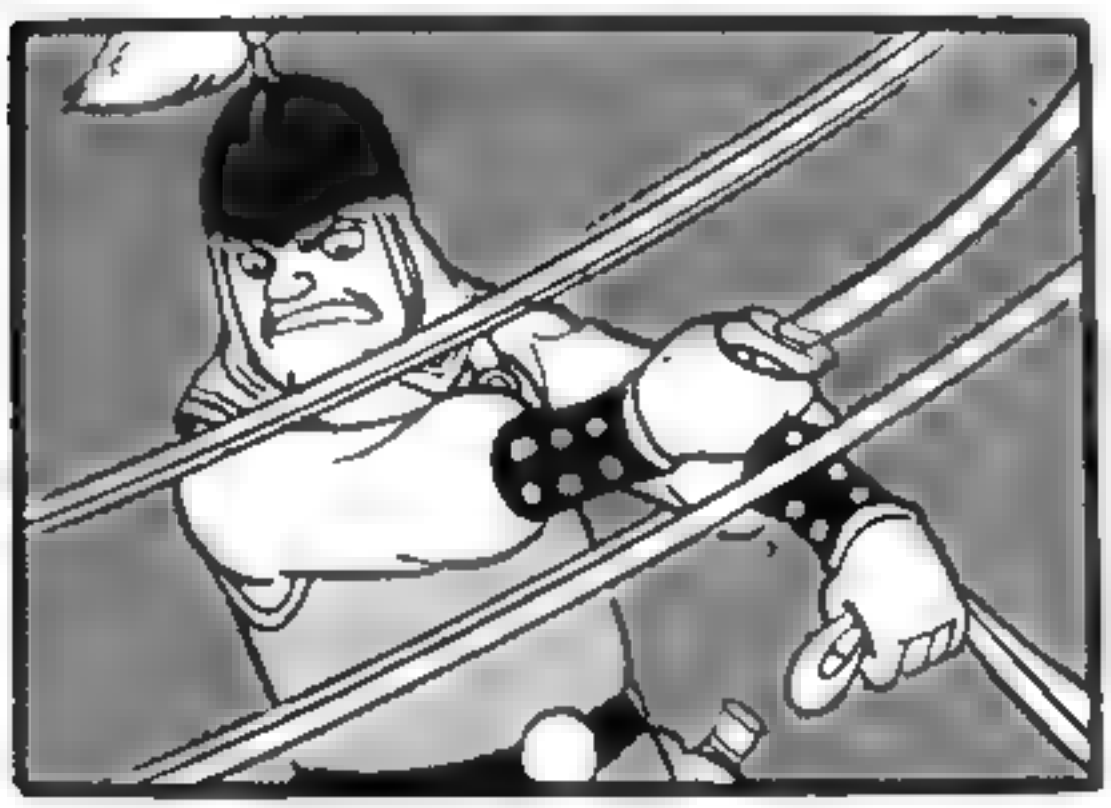
WHAT'S GOING ON!?

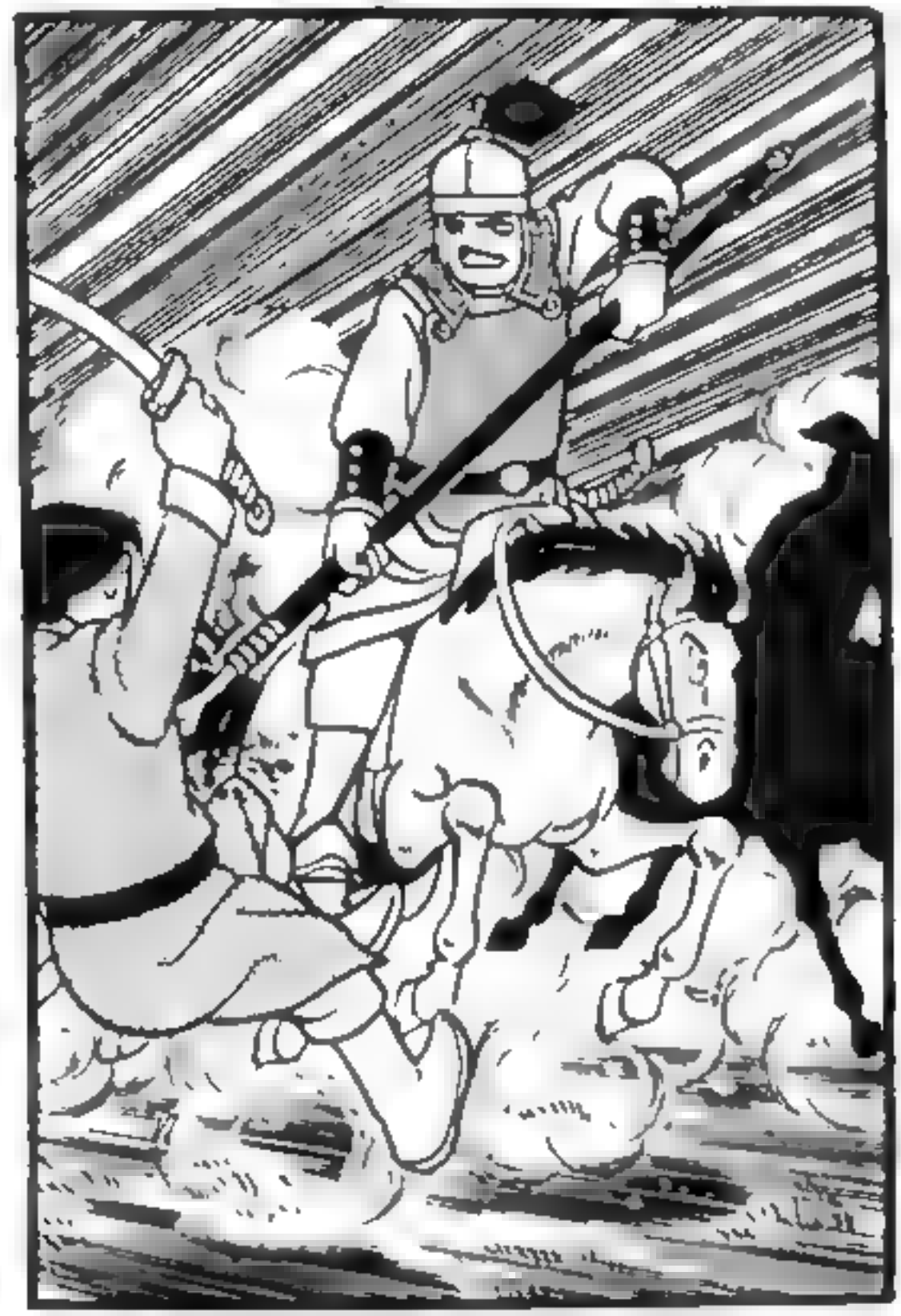
HM!?

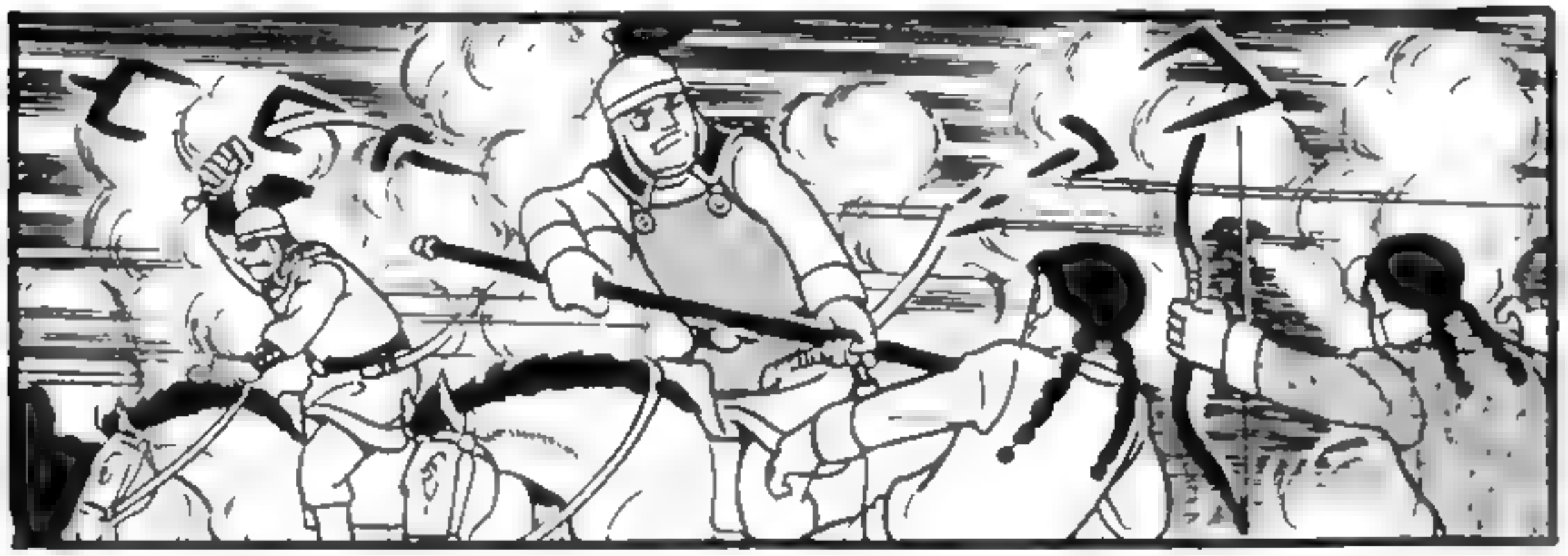


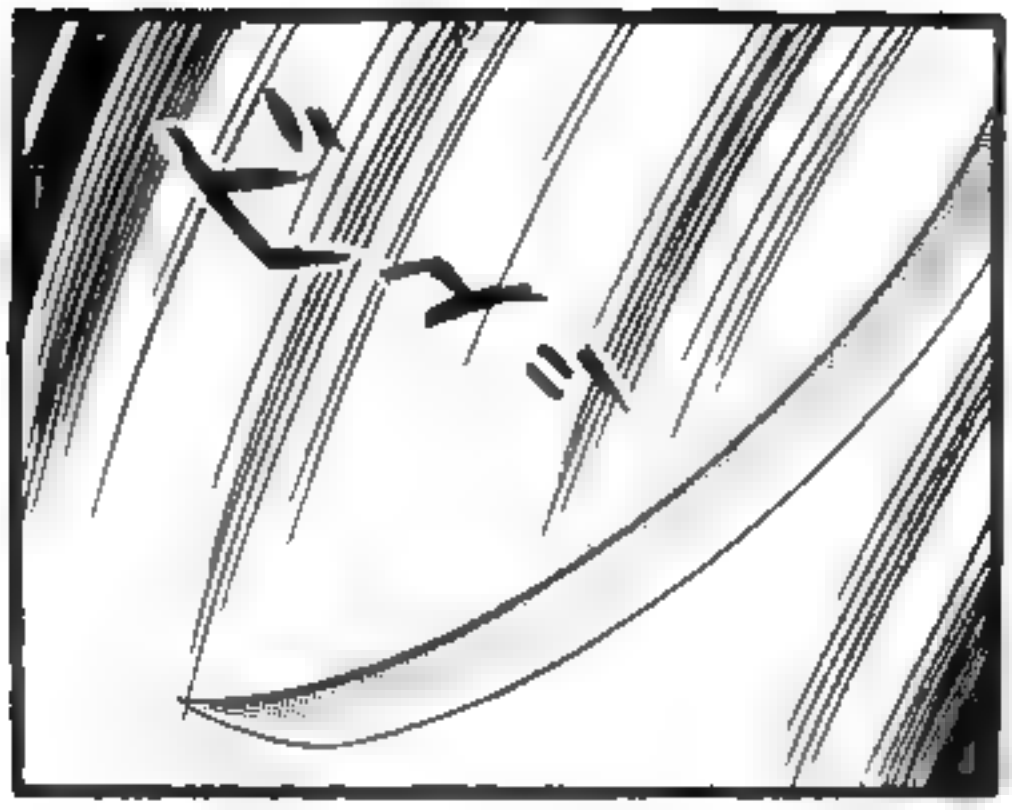
IT'S THE KEREITS! THE KEREITS ARE ATTACKING!



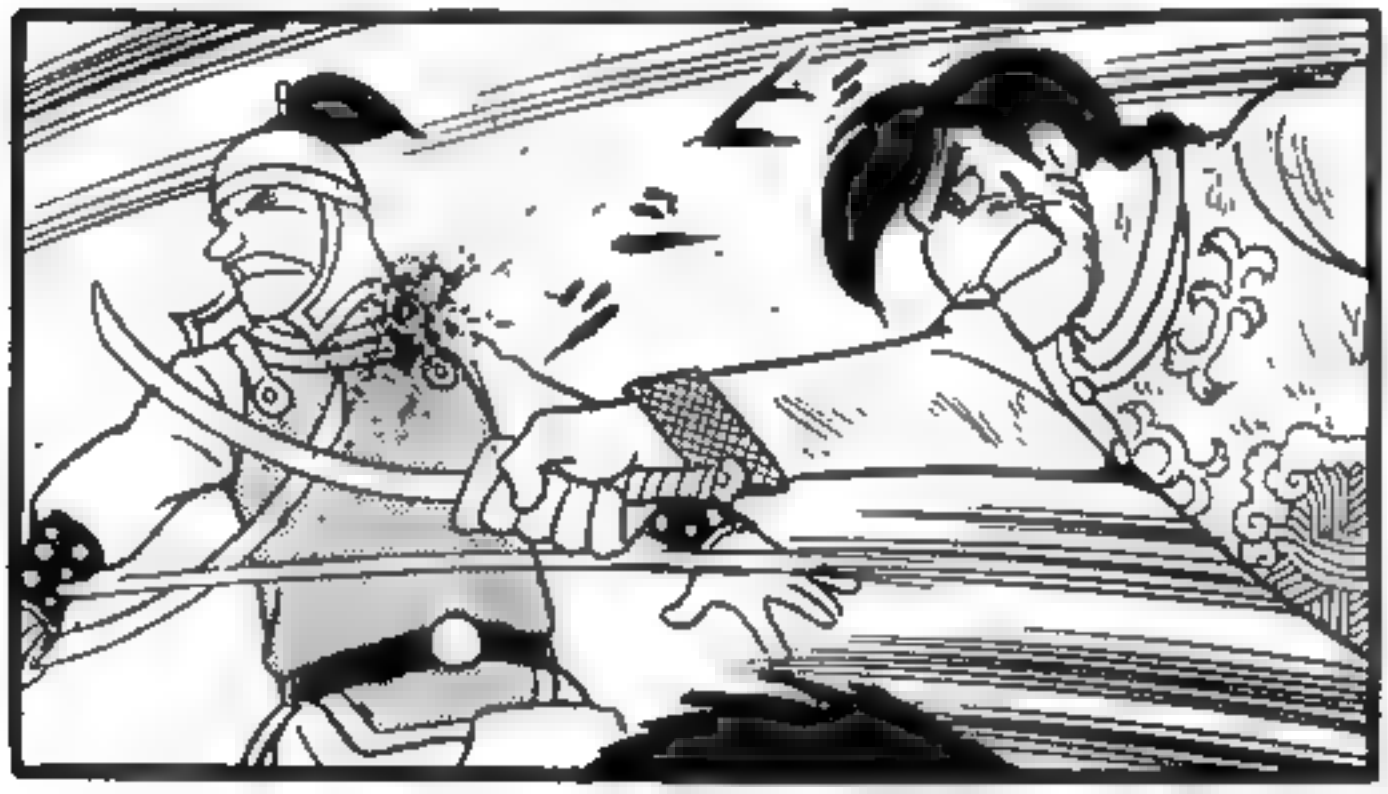


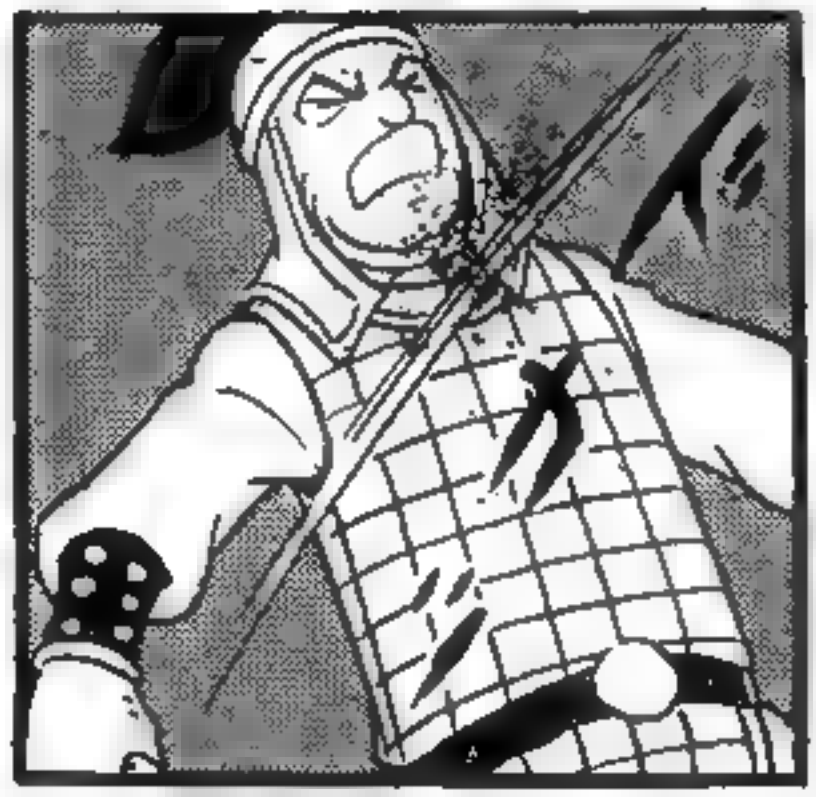


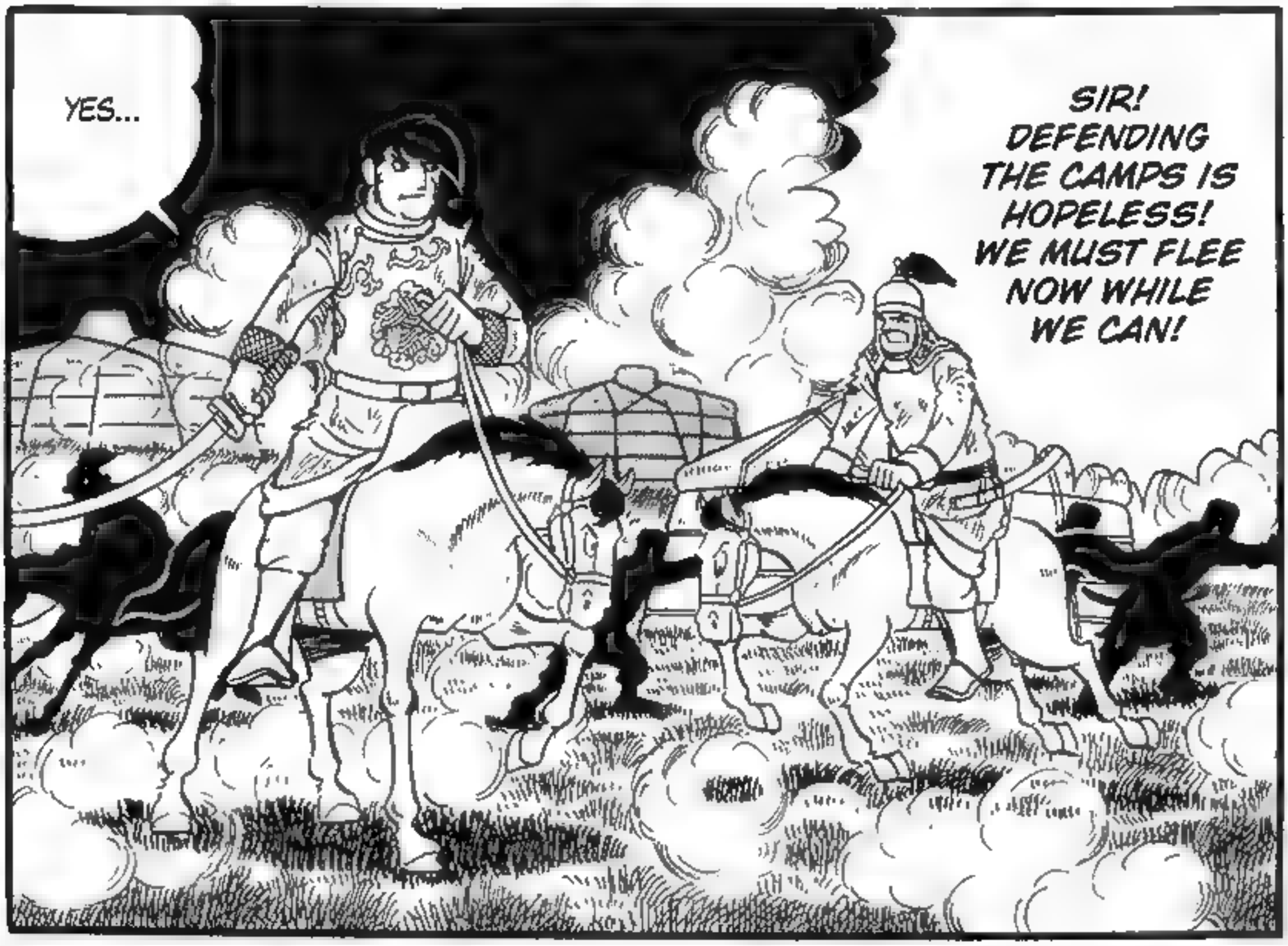


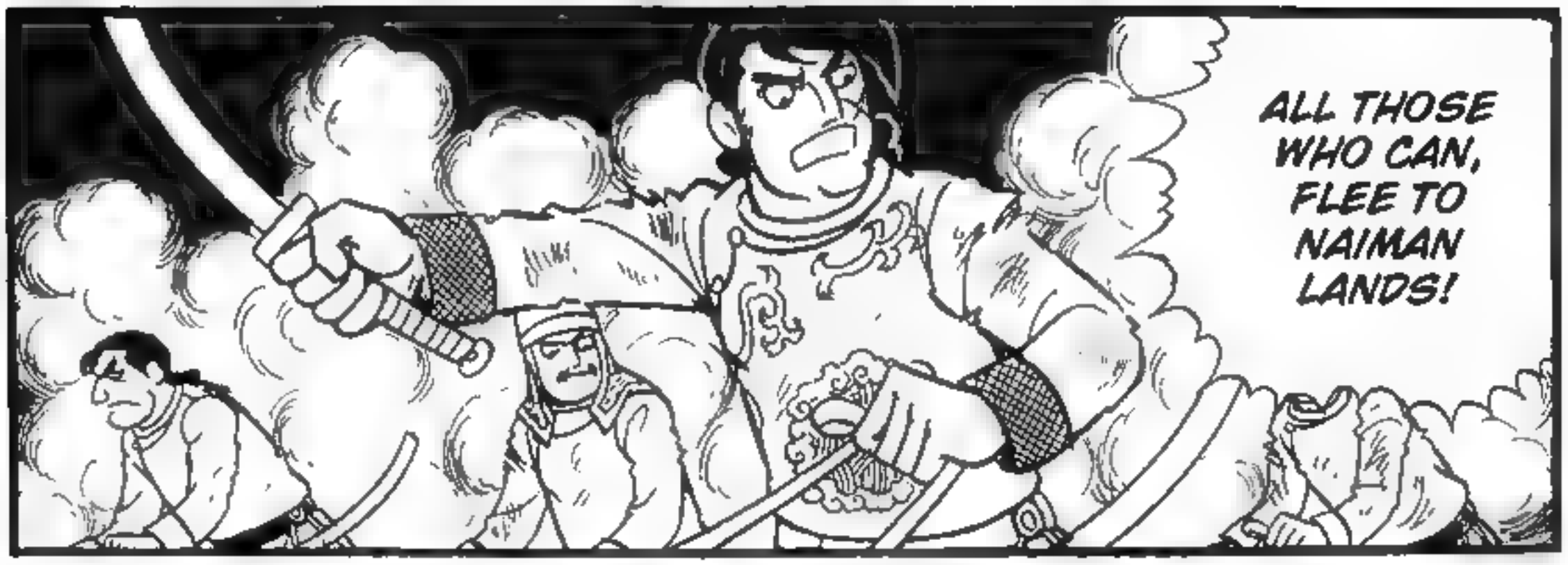


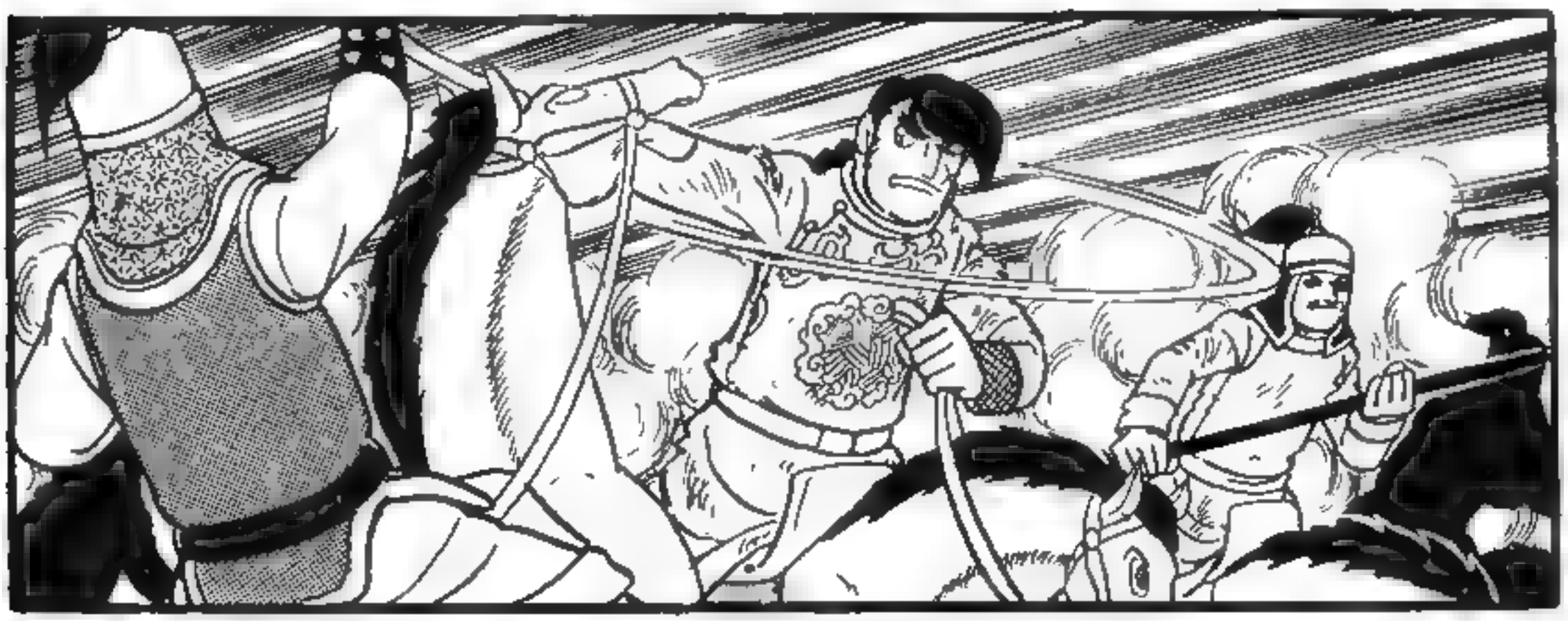
CURSES, HE BEAT ME TO MY OWN PLAN!

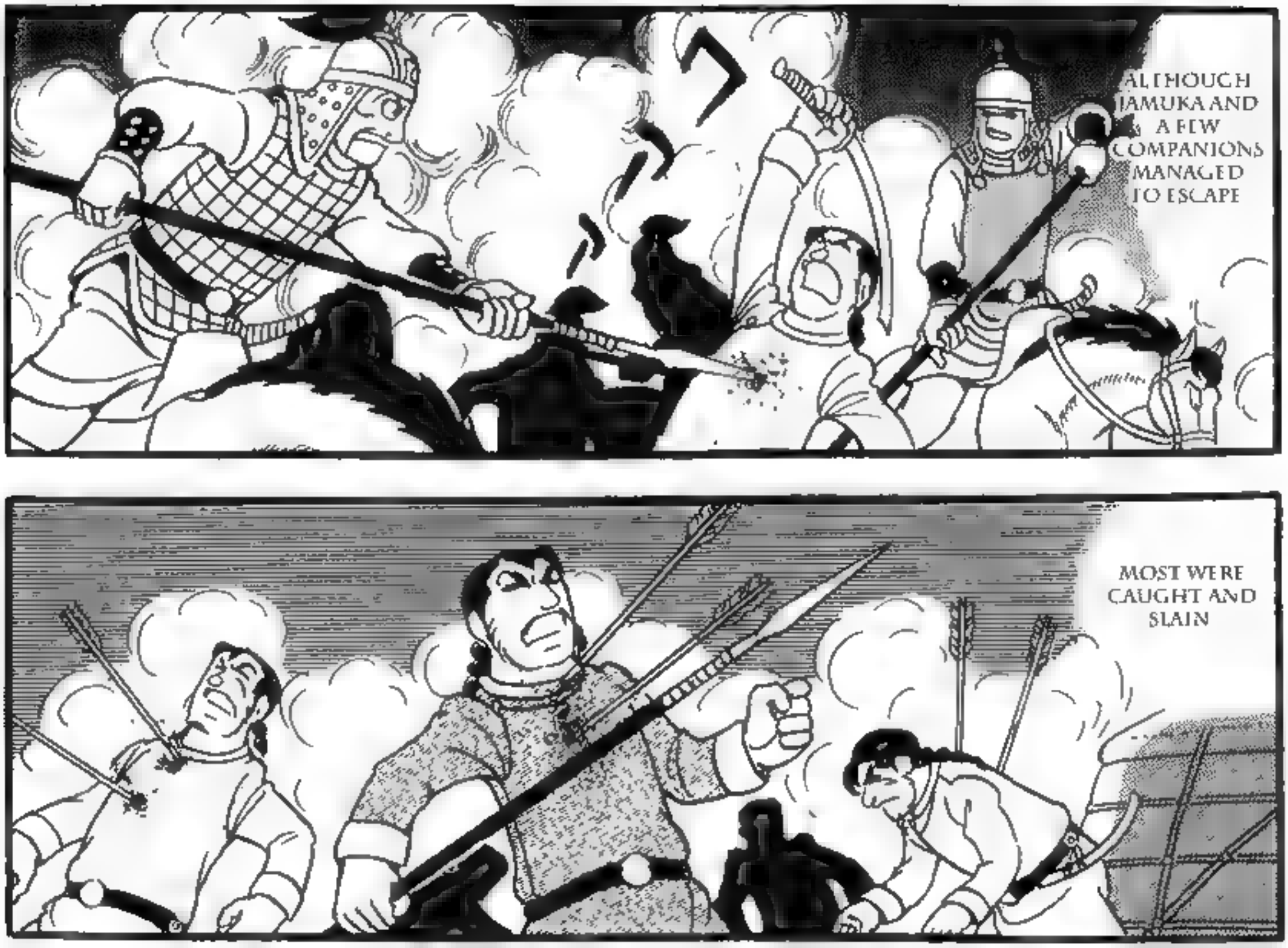





YES...
SIR! DEFENDING THE CAMPS IS HOPELESS! WE MUST FLEE NOW WHILE WE CAN!


ALL THOSE WHO CAN, FLEE TO NAIMAN LANDS!




ALTHOUGH JAMUKA AND A FEW COMPANIONS MANAGED TO ESCAPE
MOST WERE CAUGHT AND SLAIN
AND THEIR CORPSES BURNT ALONG WITH THEIR GERS.

Battle for Eastern Mongolia

MONGOL CAMPS

YES, IT WAS A RETALIATION AGAINST HIS SUPPOSED ATTEMPT ON TOGHRUL'S LIFE.

THE KEREITS TURNED ON JAMUKA!?

I HEAR HE HAS FLED WEST TO THE NAIMANS...

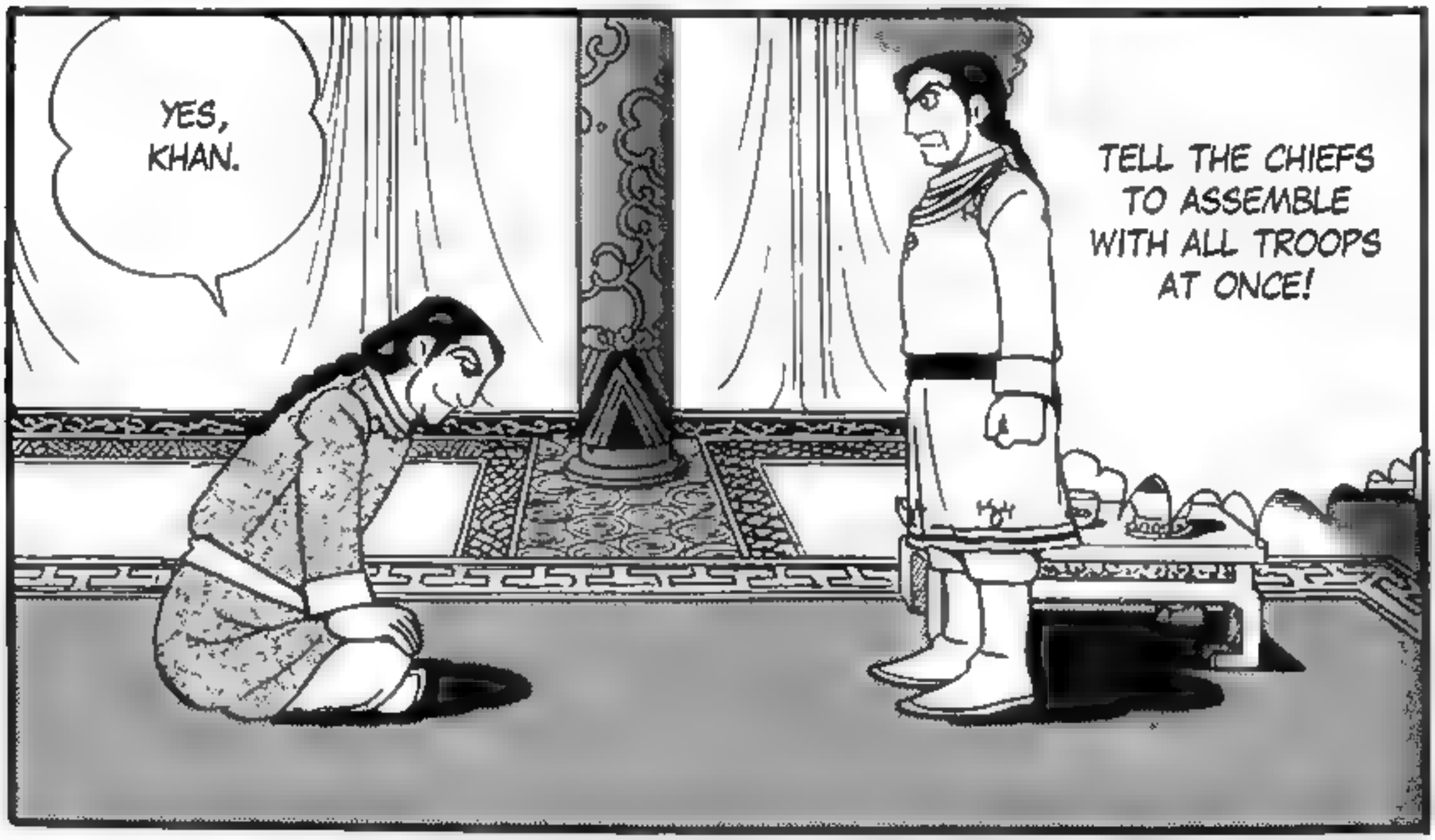
AND WHAT HAPPENED TO JAMUKA?

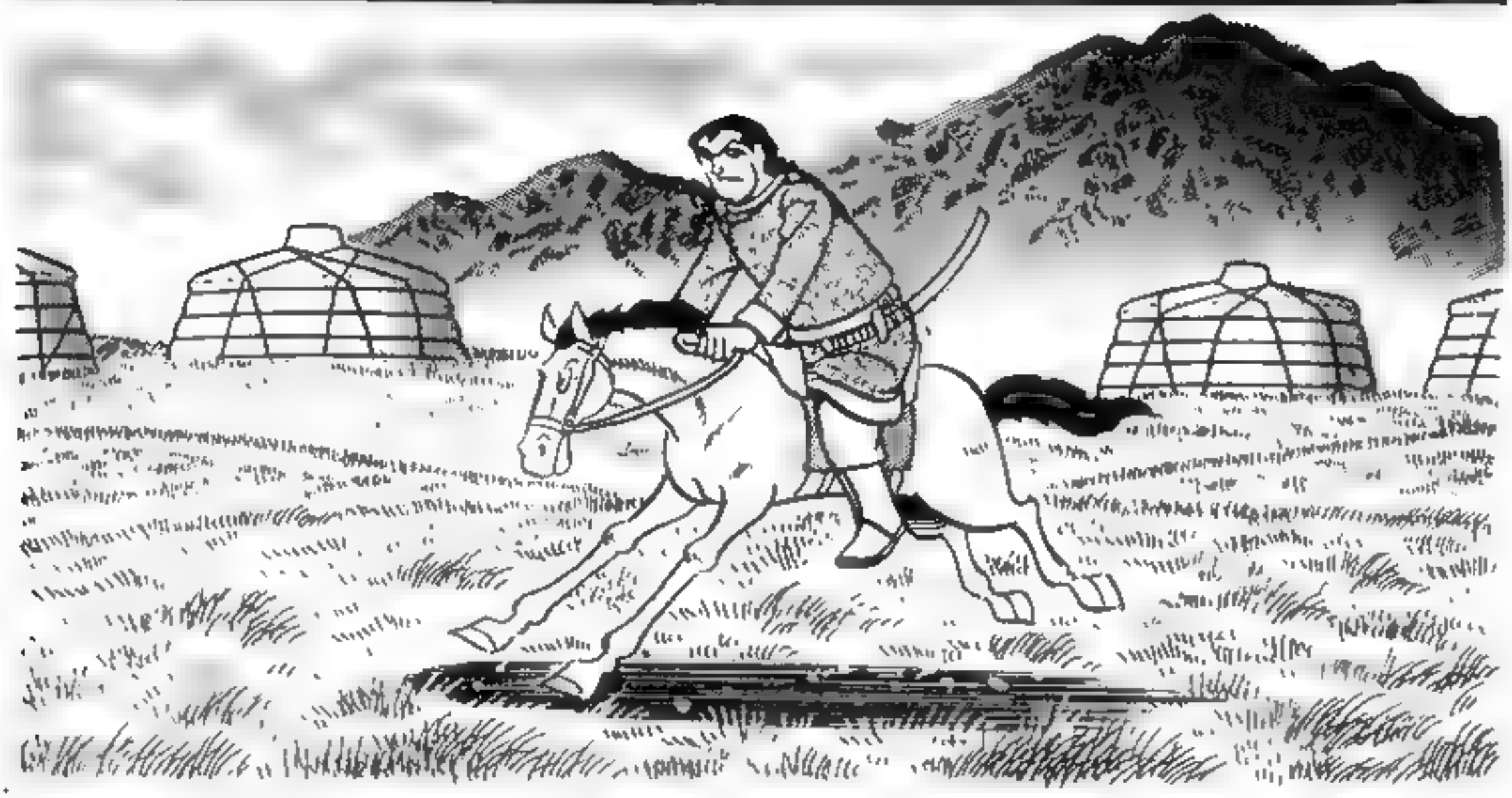
WITH JAMUKA AND HIS SUPPORTERS NOW SPLIT FROM TOGHRUL, WE CAN FINALLY CONTEND AGAINST THE KEREITS ON MORE EVEN TERMS...

HE IS FEASTING CONTINUOUSLY WITHOUT CONCERNS.

WHAT ACTIONS HAVE TOGHRUL TAKEN SINCE HIS VICTORY OVER JAMUKA?

IT SEEMS SO.
EXCELLENT, OUR CHANCE HAS FINALLY COME.

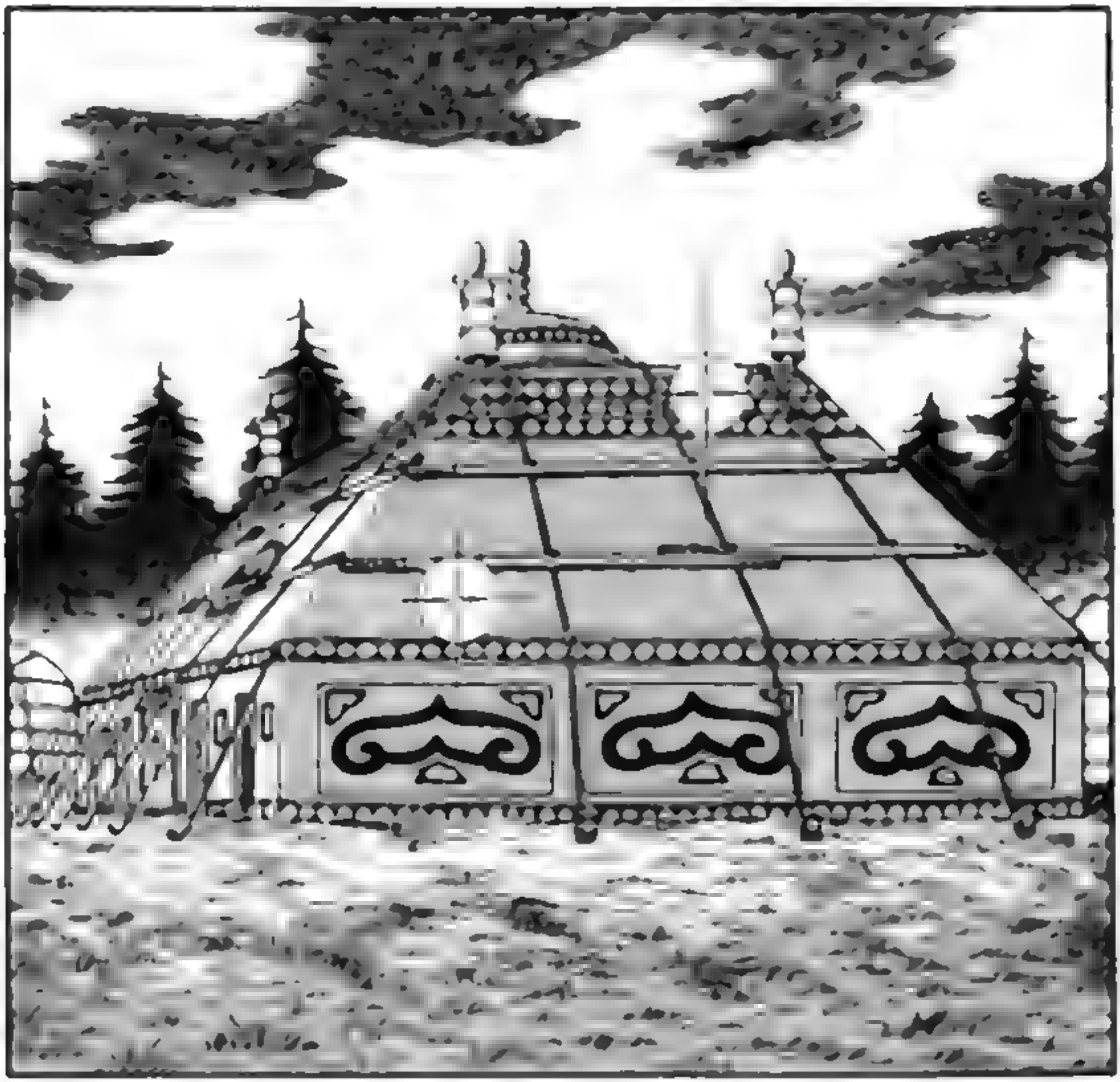

YES, KHAN.
TELL THE CHIEFS TO ASSEMBLE WITH ALL TROOPS AT ONCE!

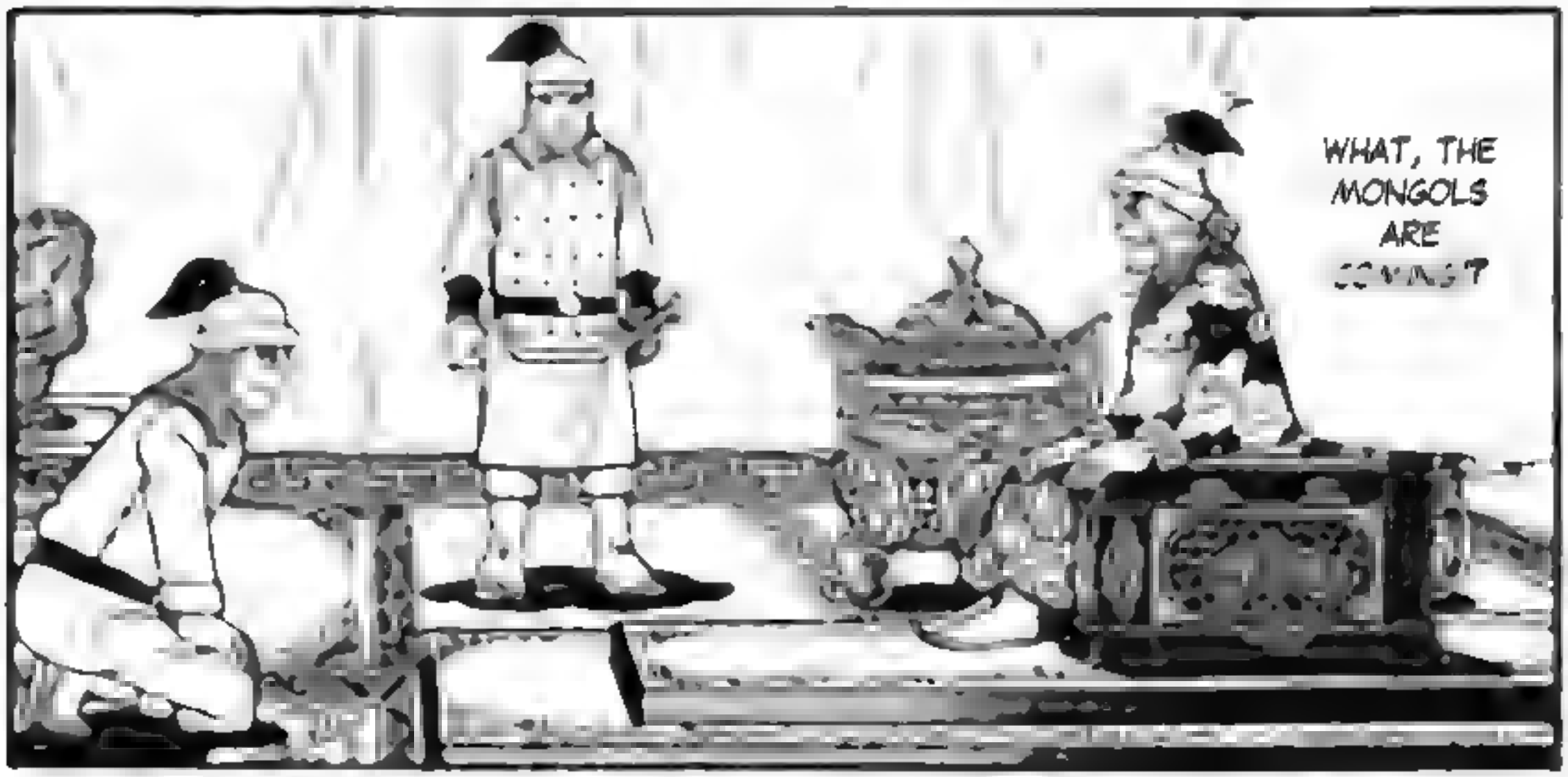


THE TRIBESMEN SADDLED THEIR HORSES AND SHARPENED THEIR SWORDS

THE TIME HAS COME TO STRIKE THE TRAITOROUS KEREITS! TO EXACT LONG-WAITED VENGEANCE! TO TRAMPLE THE WEAK BEFORE THE STRONG! TO SETTLE ONCE AND FOR ALL THE TRUE RULERS OF THE STEPPE!

THE MONGOL ARMY MARCHED TOWARDS THE KEREIT CAMPS AT CHECHER HEIGHTS.



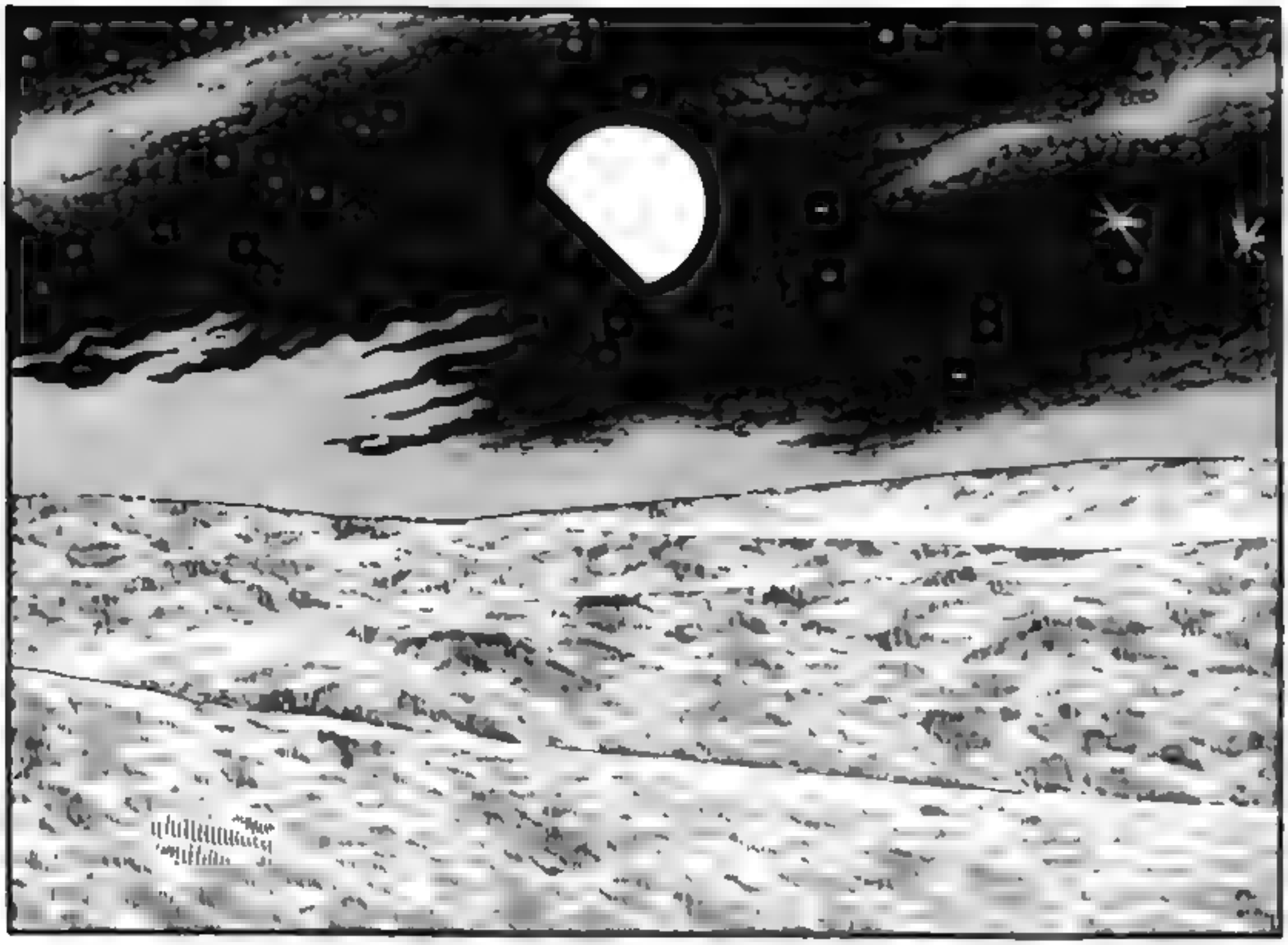

WHAT, THE MONGOLS ARE COMING?

THEY STILL HAVEN'T LEARNED THEIR LESSON AFTER THE LAST DEFEAT I HANDED DOWN TO THEM!?

YES, WANG KHAN.

SO BE IT! THIS WILL BE A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO UPROOT TEMUCHIN AND THE MONGOLS' INFLUENCE COMPLETELY! PREPARE FOR BATTLE!

THE MONGOLS ARE COMING! PREPARE FOR WAR!

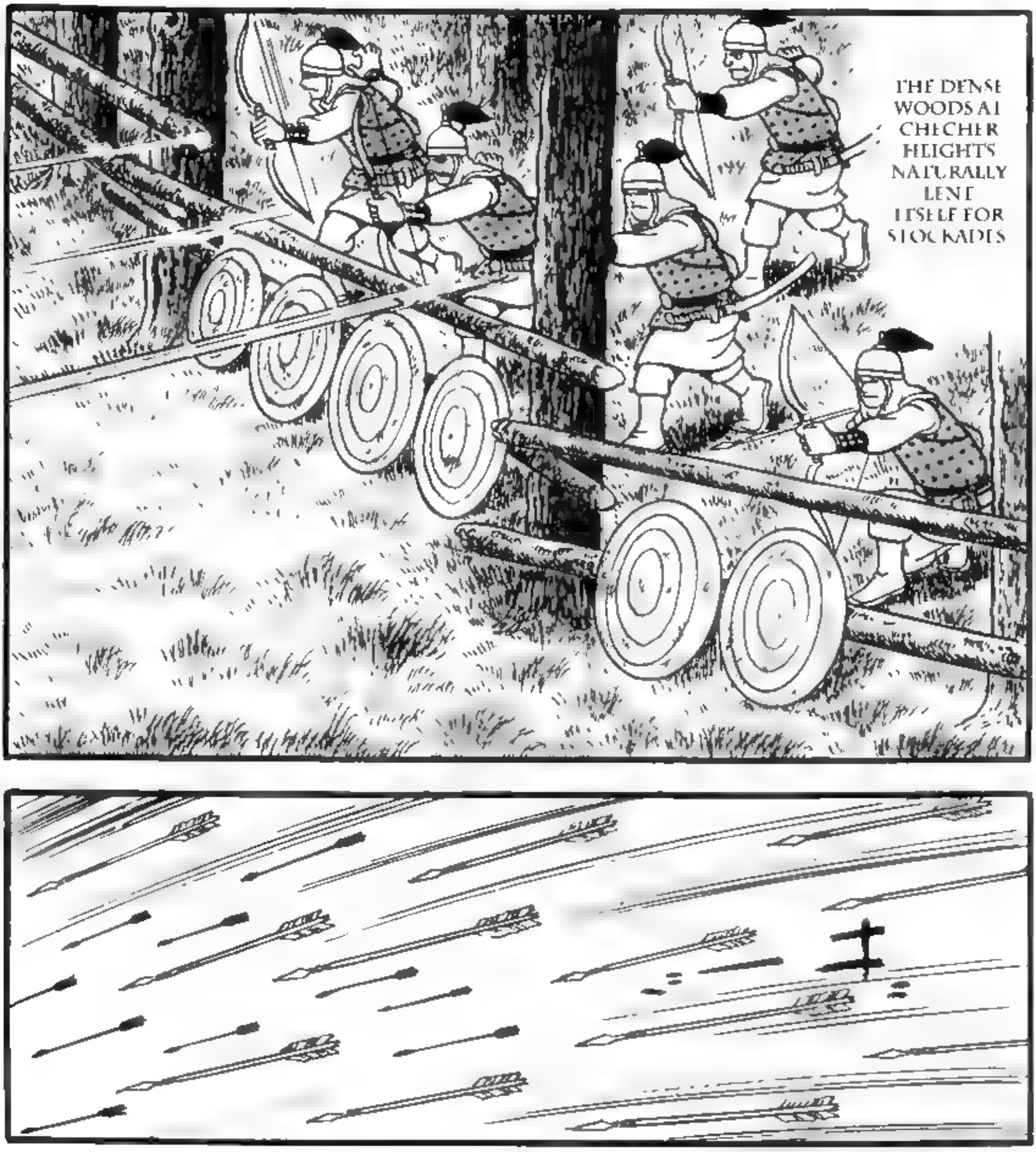


WHO WILL RULE THE STEPPE!? THE KEREIT YOKE UNDER THE DECREPIT TOGHRUL? OR WE MONGOLS LED BY YOUR KHAN? IT IS YOUR VALOUR IN THIS BATTLE THAT WILL DETERMINE THE MATTER SO STEEL YOUR RESOLVES AND CHOOSE!

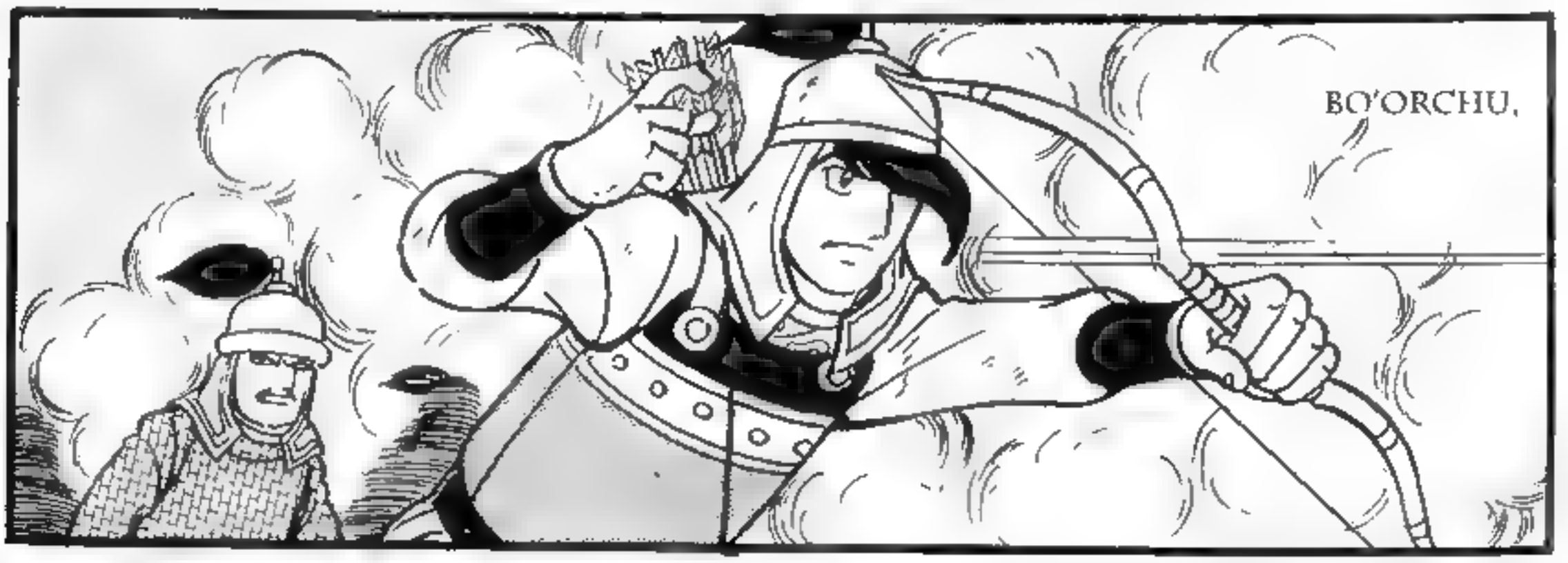
CHARGE!

GREET THEM WITH OUR ARROWS!

HERE THEY COME!

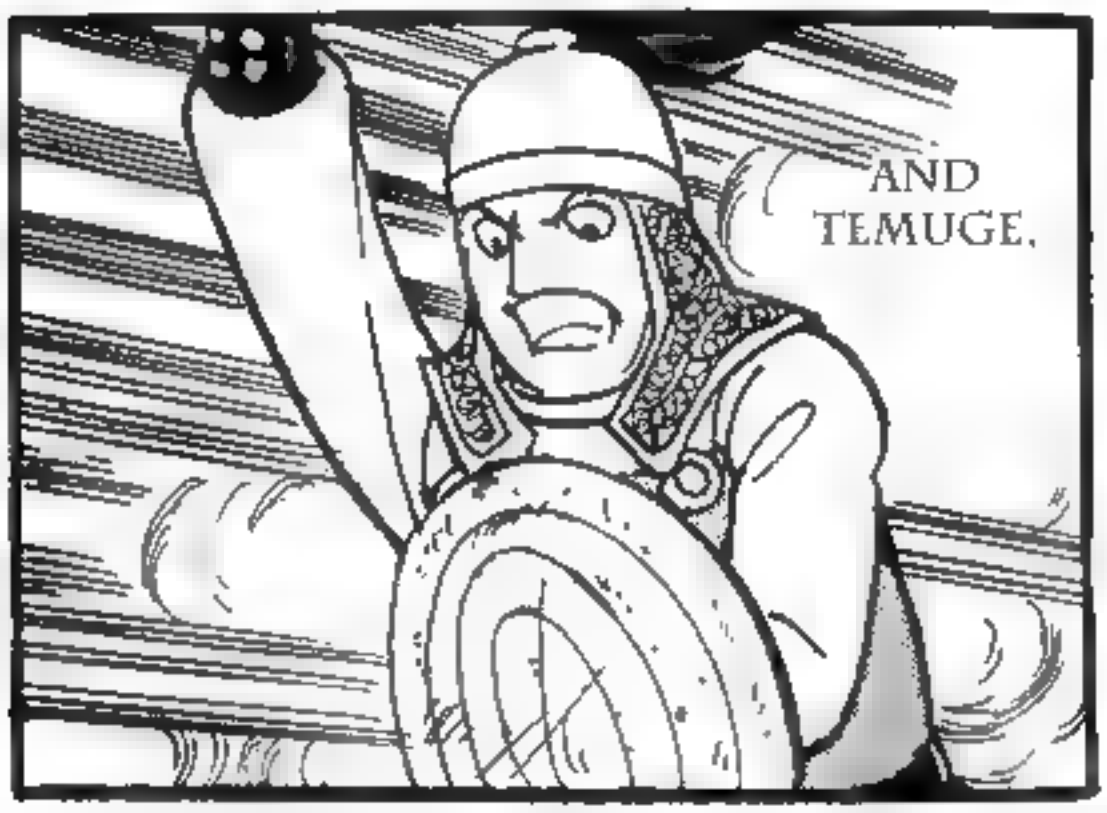

THE DENSE WOODS AT CHECHER HEIGHTS NATURALLY LENT ITSELF FOR STOCKADES

BUT THE MONGOL WOLVES SHOWED NO FEAR OF DEATH IN THEIR RELENTLESS CHARGE

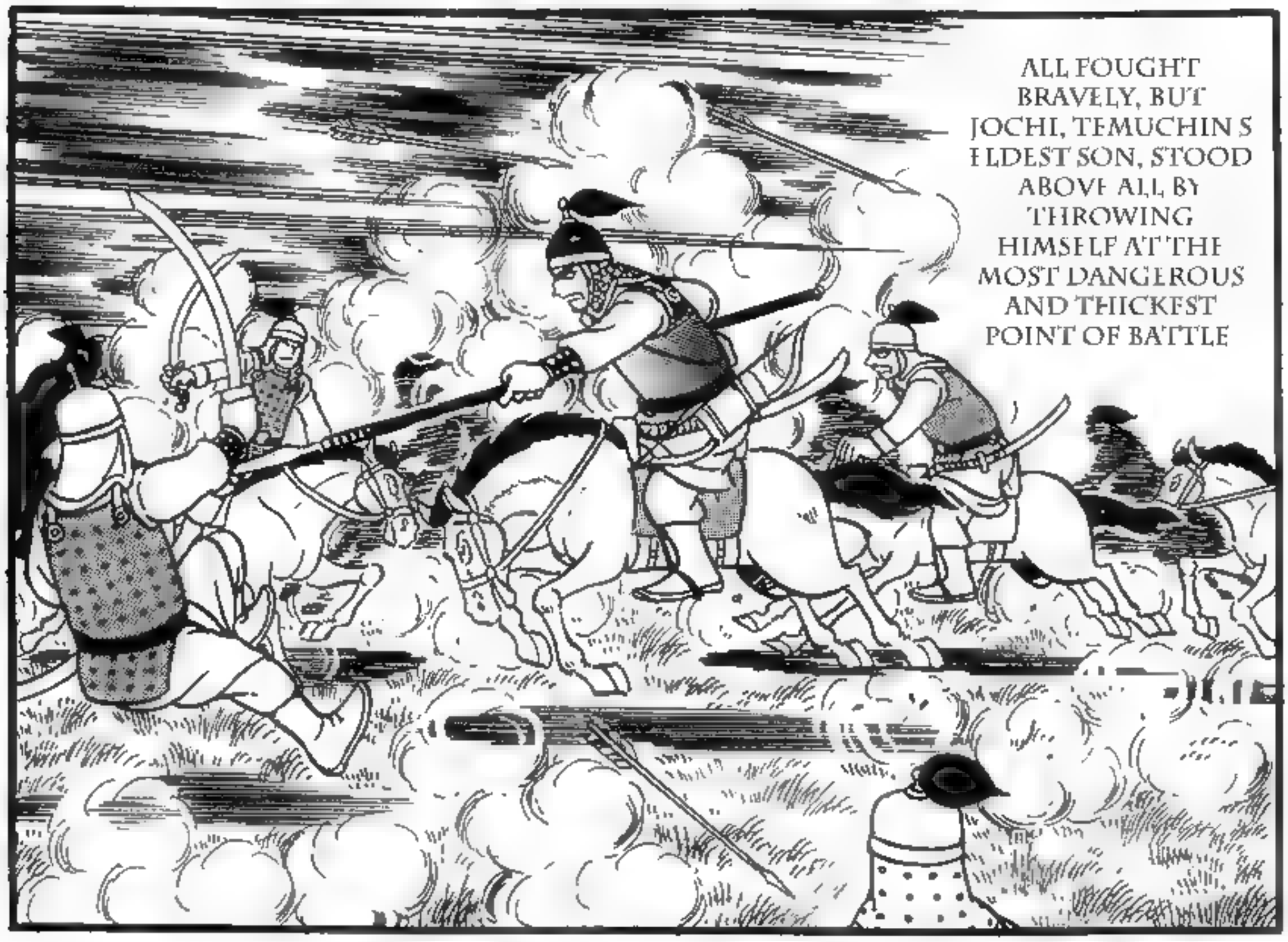

BO'ORCHU,

CHILAUN.

HIS BROTHERS, KASAR,


AND TEMUGE,

KACHIUN,


ALL FOUGHT BRAVELY, BUT JOCHI, TEMUCHIN'S ELDEST SON, STOOD ABOVE ALL BY THROWING HIMSELF AT THE MOST DANGEROUS AND THICKEST POINT OF BATTLE

JOCHI WAS THE SON BORN BY BÖRTE AFTER HER TEMPORARY ABDUCTION AT MERKIT HANDS.

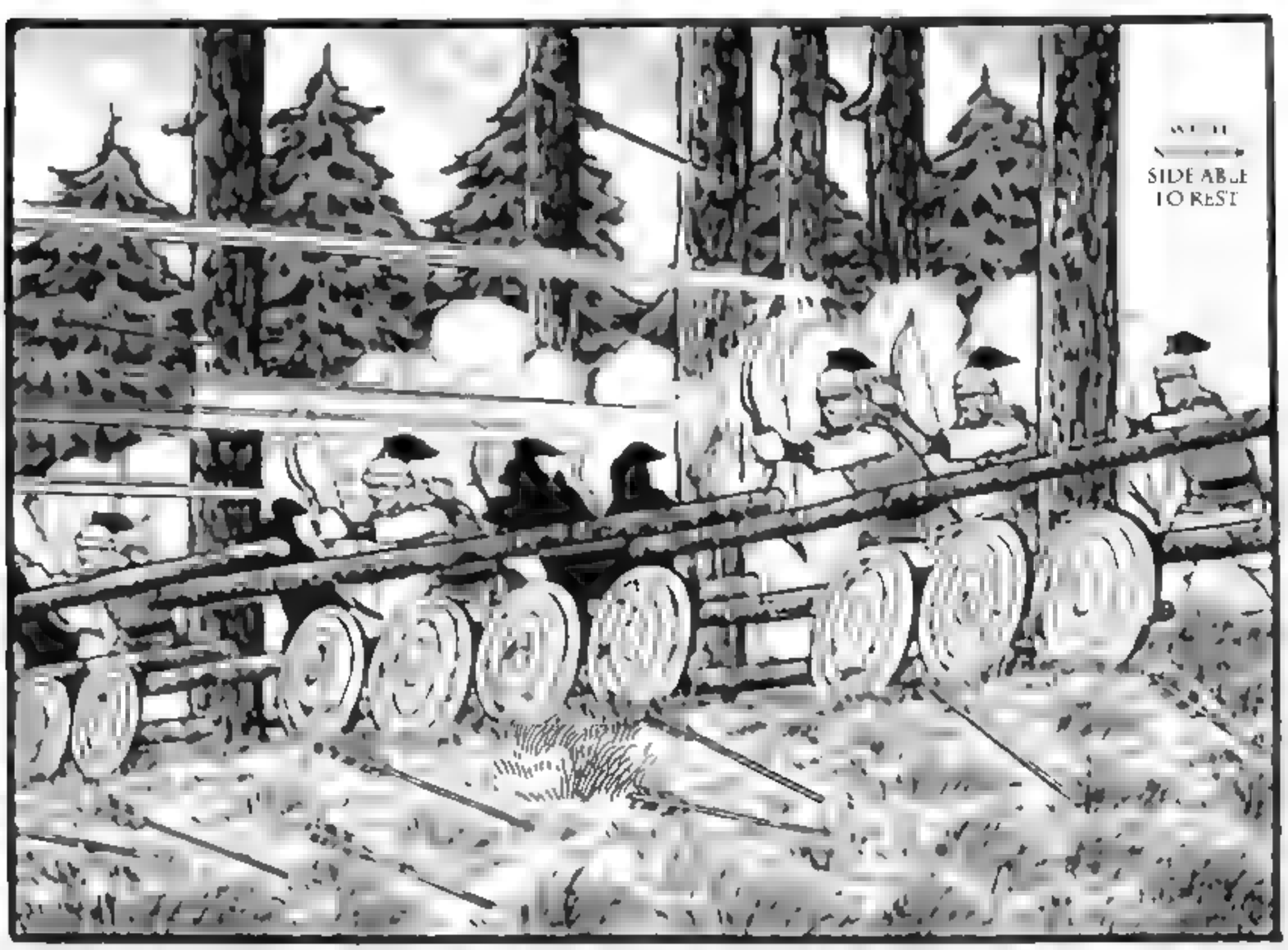
HIS VERY NAME, MEANING "GUEST," SERVED AS A BITTER REMINDER ABOUT HIS FATHER'S DOUBTS ON HIS PARENTAGE.

RESENTFUL OF THESE DOUBTS, BÖRTE ALWAYS LECTURED TO HER SON THAT IN ORDER TO PROVE THE BLOOD OF THE BLUE GRAY WOLF AND TEMUCHIN FLOWED IN HIM, HE MUST WORK HARDER THAN ANY OTHER, NO MATTER THE COST

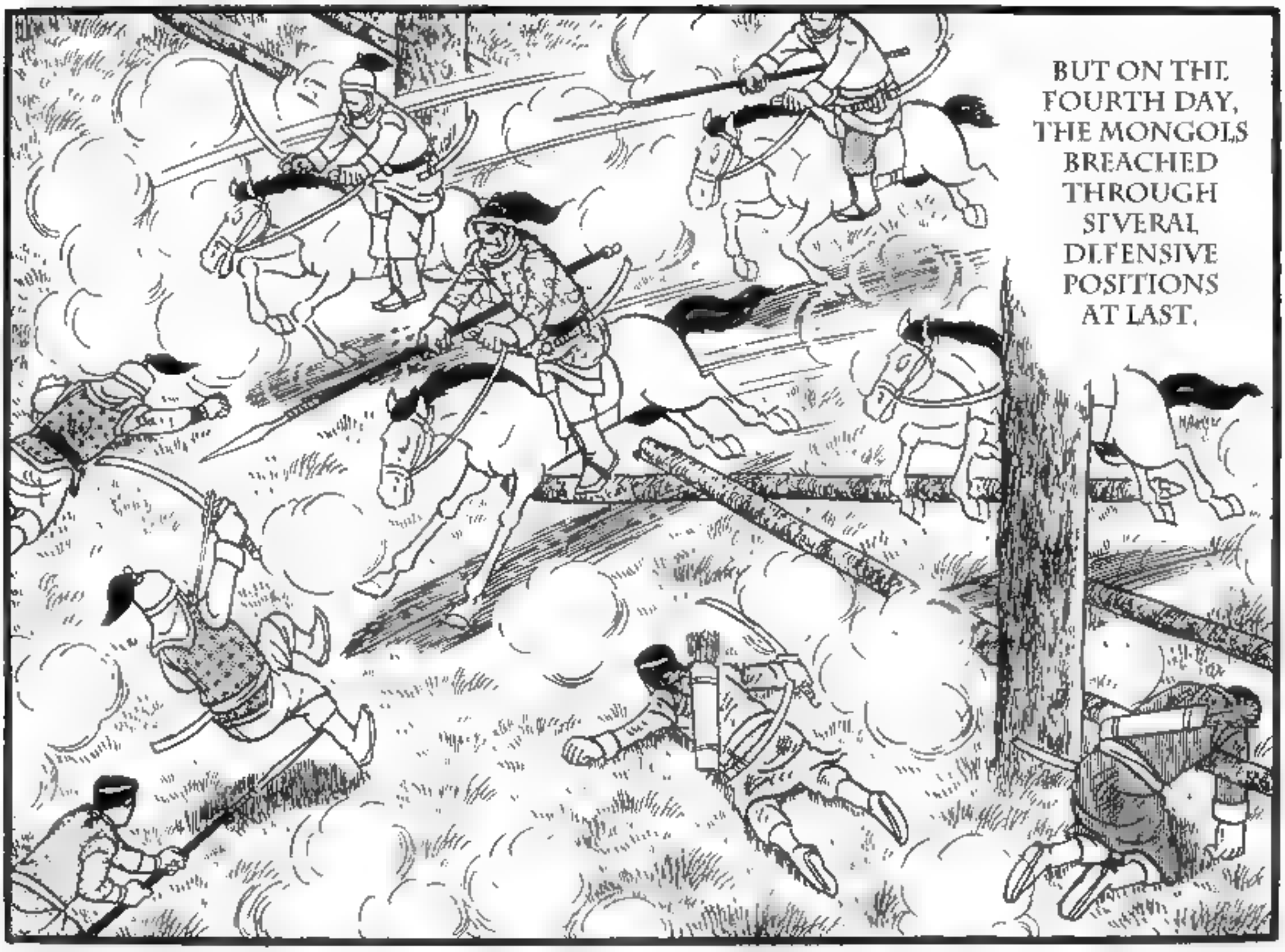
THUS, JOCHI WAS ALWAYS THE FIRST TO VOLUNTEER FOR THE MOST DANGEROUS TASKS

HIS BORDERLINE FANATICAL WILLINGNESS TO LEAP INTO DANGER WAS, IN SOME SENSE, AS ADMIRABLE AS IT WAS TRAGICALLY PITIFUL

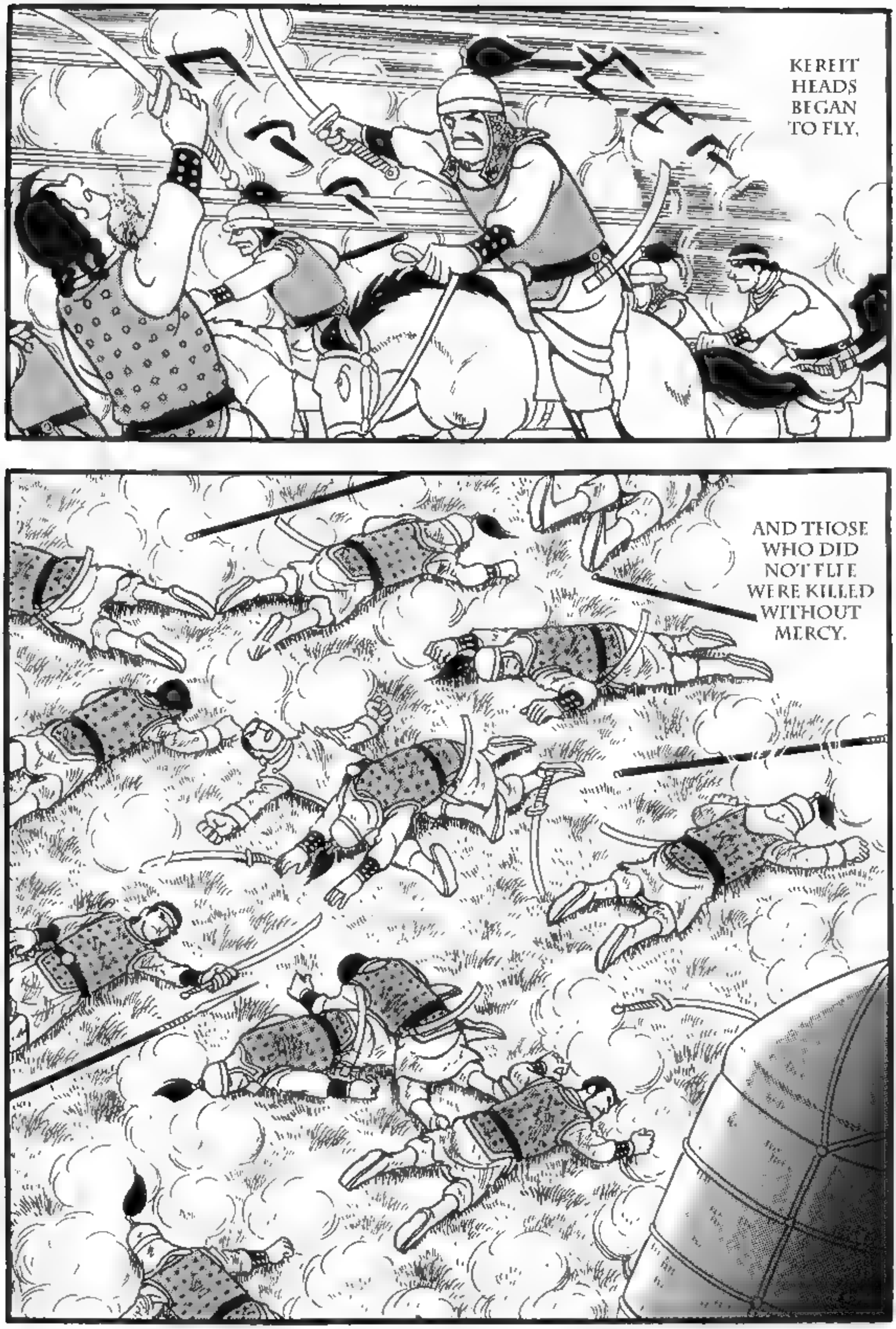
THE BATTLE RAGED ON FOR THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS


SIDE ABLE TO REST

TEMUCHIN STOOD BACK TO OBSERVE THE SITUATION, BUT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO TELL WHO WAS WHERE AND WHAT WAS WHAT IN THE CHAOS OF BATTLE

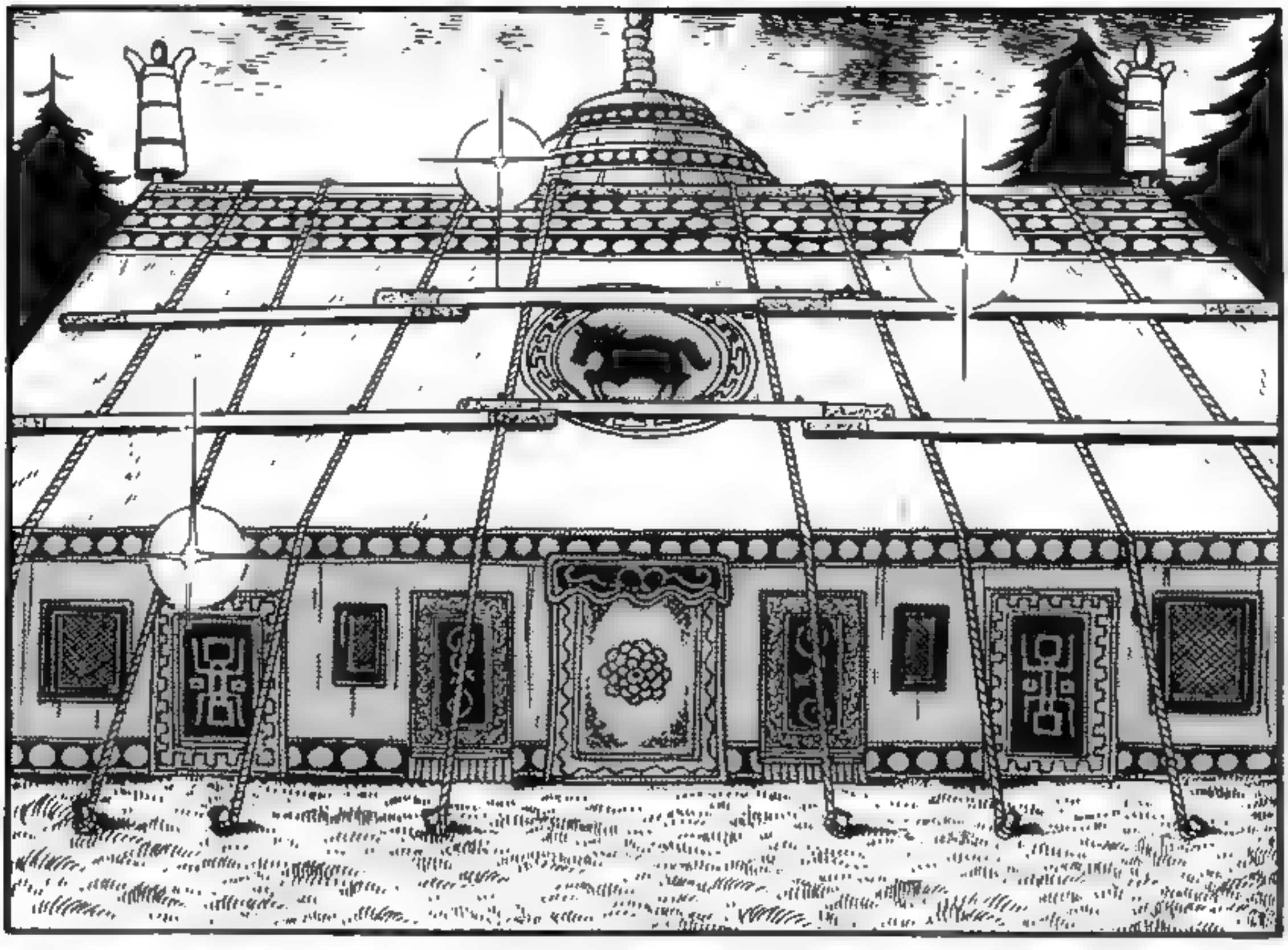

BUT ON THE FOURTH DAY, THE MONGOLS BREACHED THROUGH SEVERAL DEFENSIVE POSITIONS AT LAST.

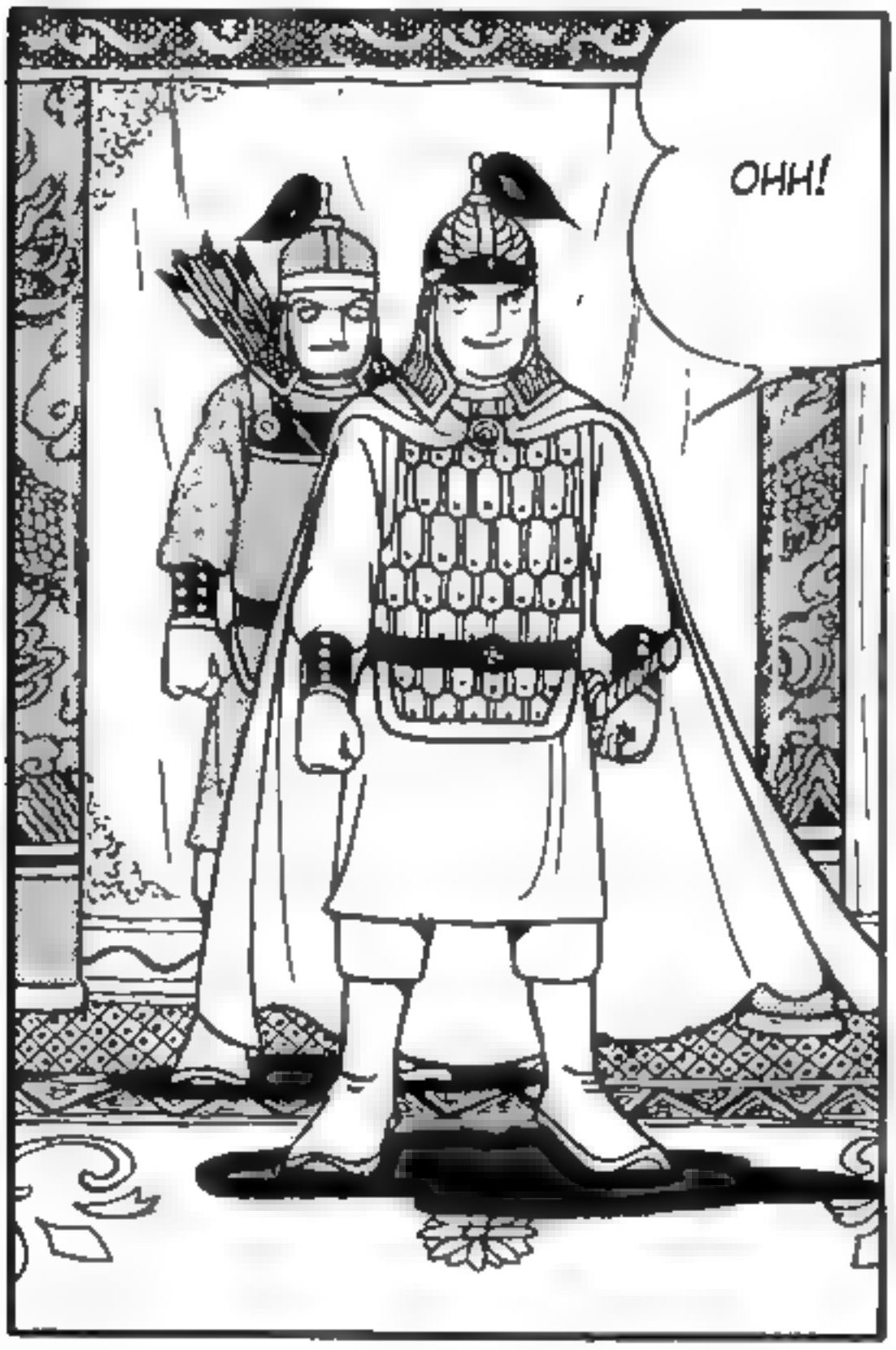
AND STORMED THROUGH THE KEREIT CAMPS.

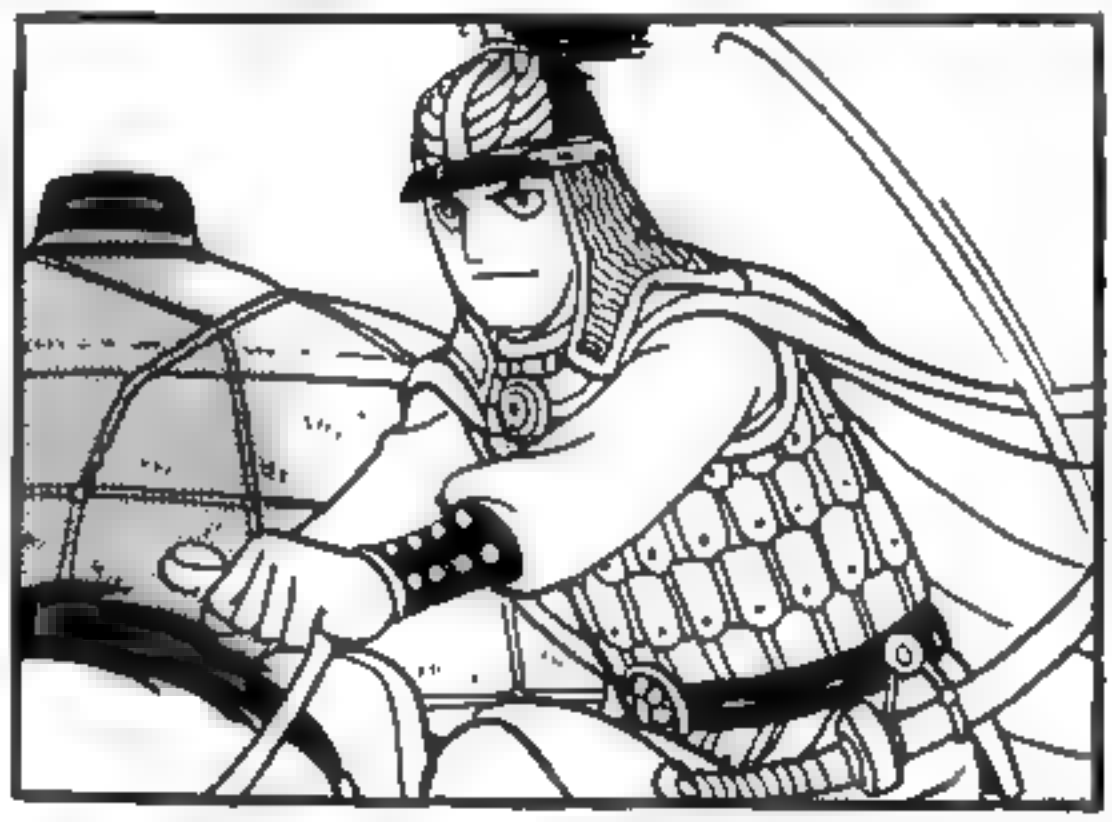

KEREIT HEADS BEGAN TO FLY.
AND THOSE WHO DID NOT FLEE WERE KILLED WITHOUT MERCY.

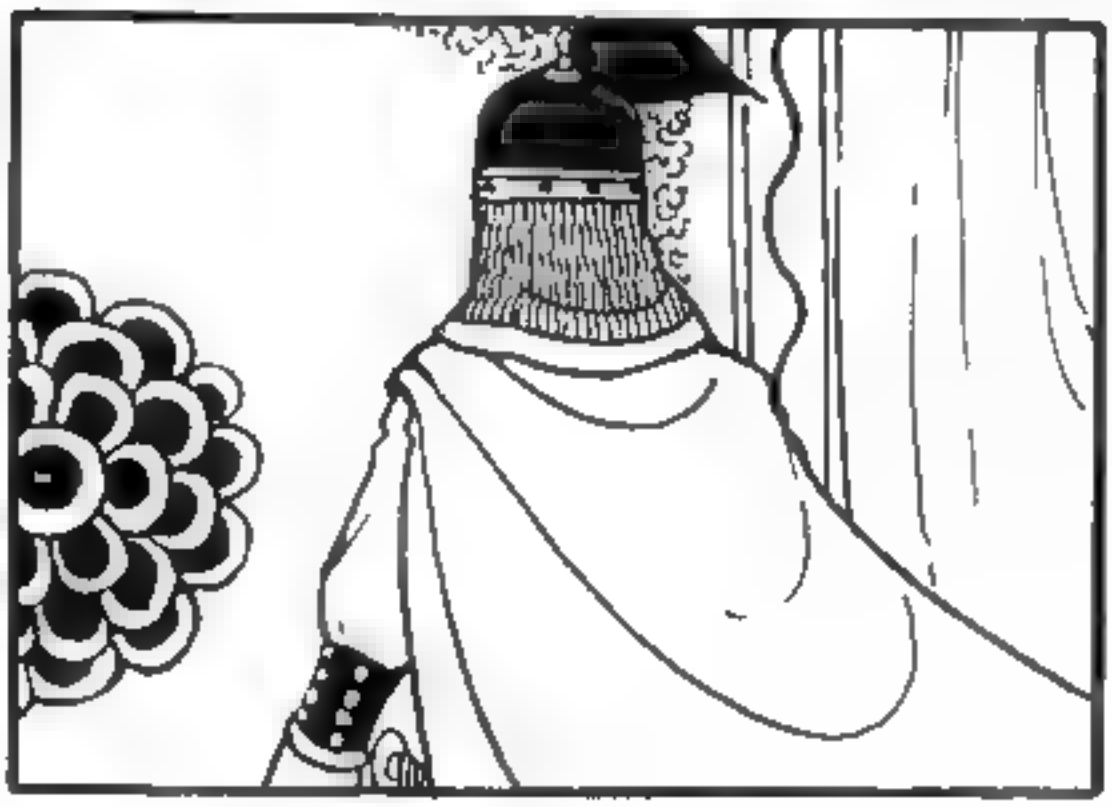
YES...

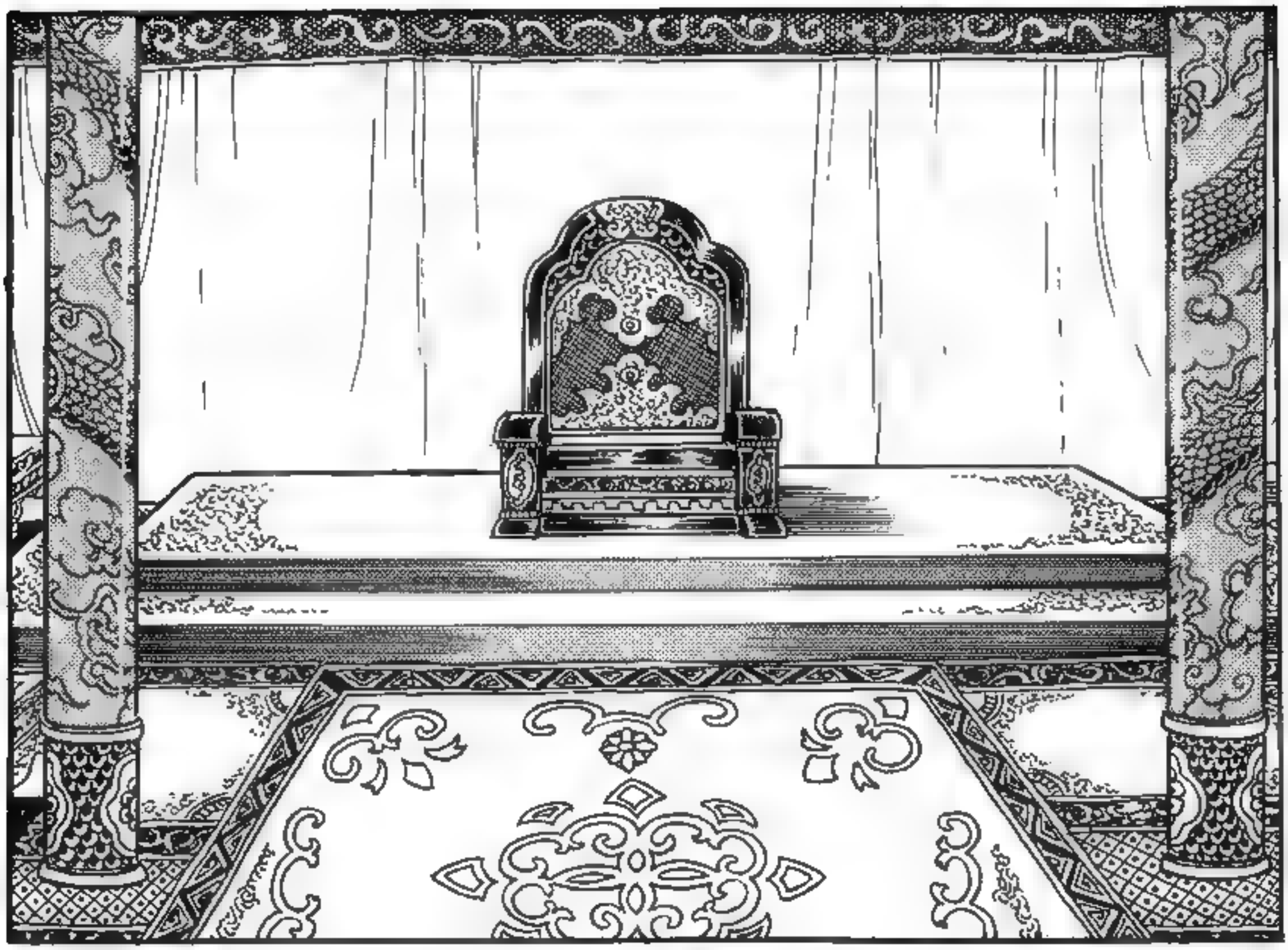
SO THIS IS THE ROYAL GER TOGHRUL BUILT FOR HIMSELF...

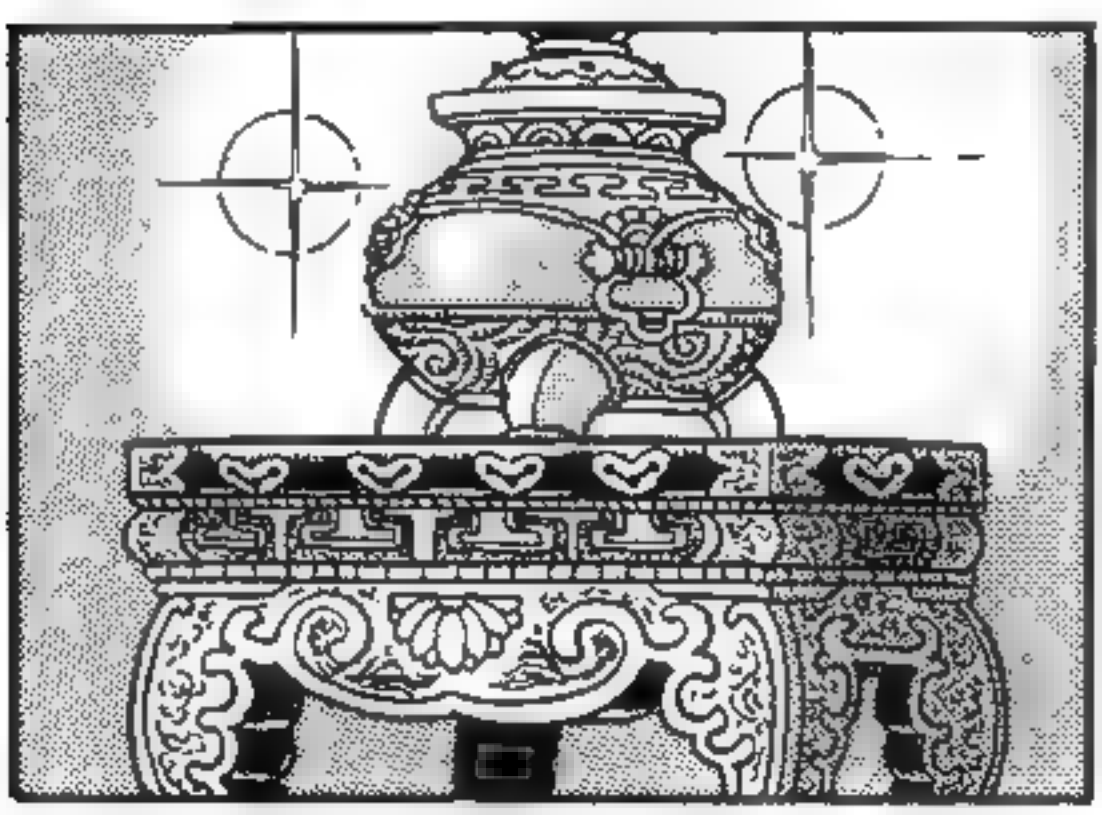


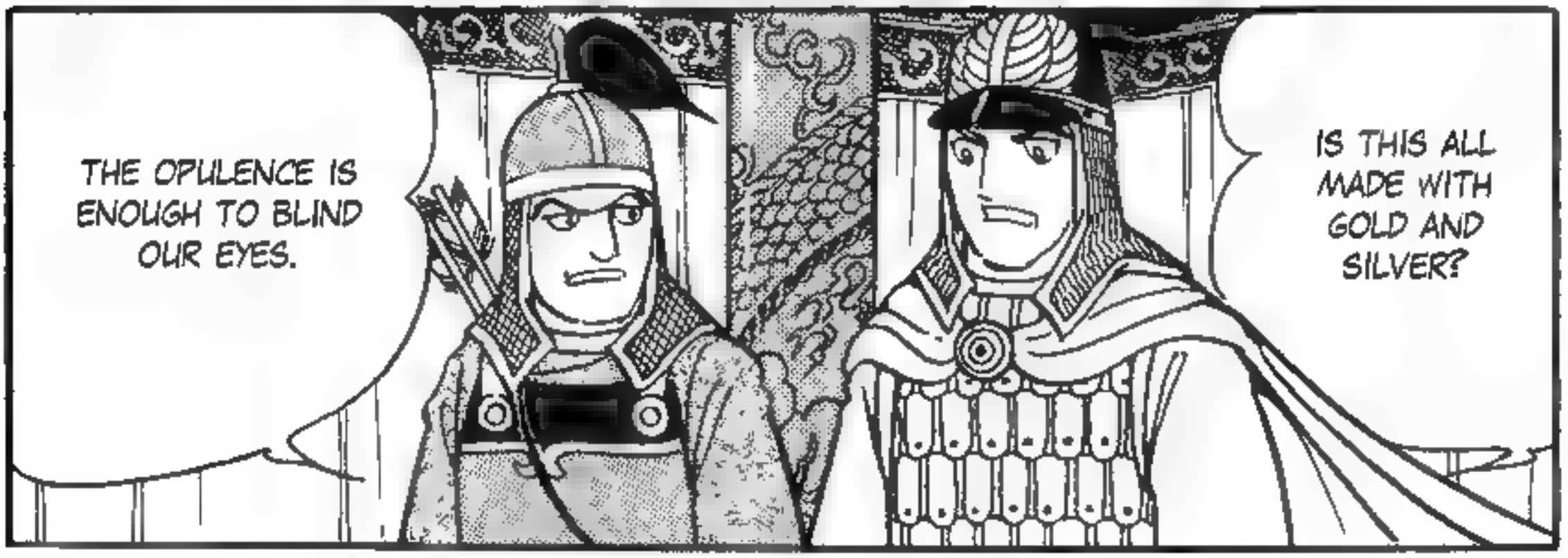

OHH!










THE OPULENCE IS ENOUGH TO BLIND OUR EYES.
IS THIS ALL MADE WITH GOLD AND SILVER?

YES, KHAN.

SEE TO IT THAT NO MAN STARTS PILLAGING FOR HIMSELF. THE LOOT MUST BE DISTRIBUTED FAIRLY ACCORDING TO MERIT.

HAVE TOGHRUL AND SENGGUM STILL NOT BEEN FOUND!?

THE NAIMANS!?

ACCORDING TO A FEW KEREIT CAPTIVES, THEY FLED TO THE NAIMANS.

YES, KHAN.

ACCOMPANY ME FOR A RIDE, JELME.

JAMUKA, TOGHRUL, AND SENGGUM... MY THREE CHIEF FOES ALL WITH THE NAIMANS...

I'M AFRAID SO. IT WAS A FIERCE BATTLE, AFTER ALL.

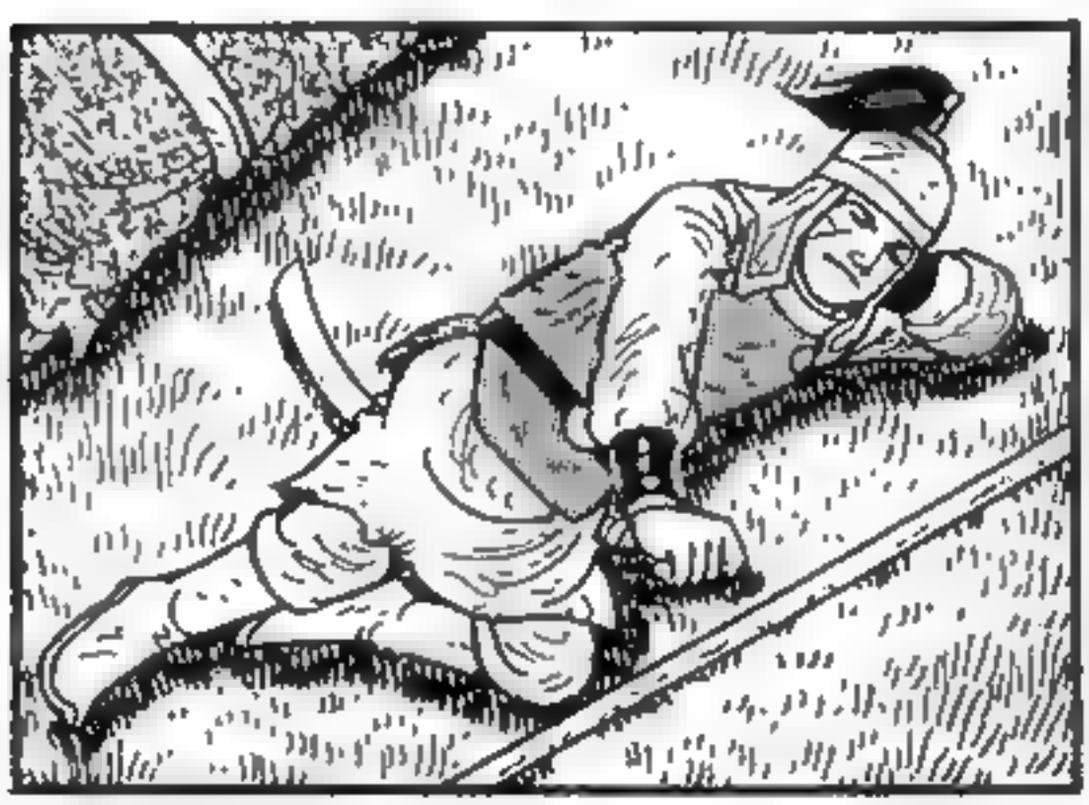
HOW DO OUR CASUALTY NUMBERS FARE? HIGH?

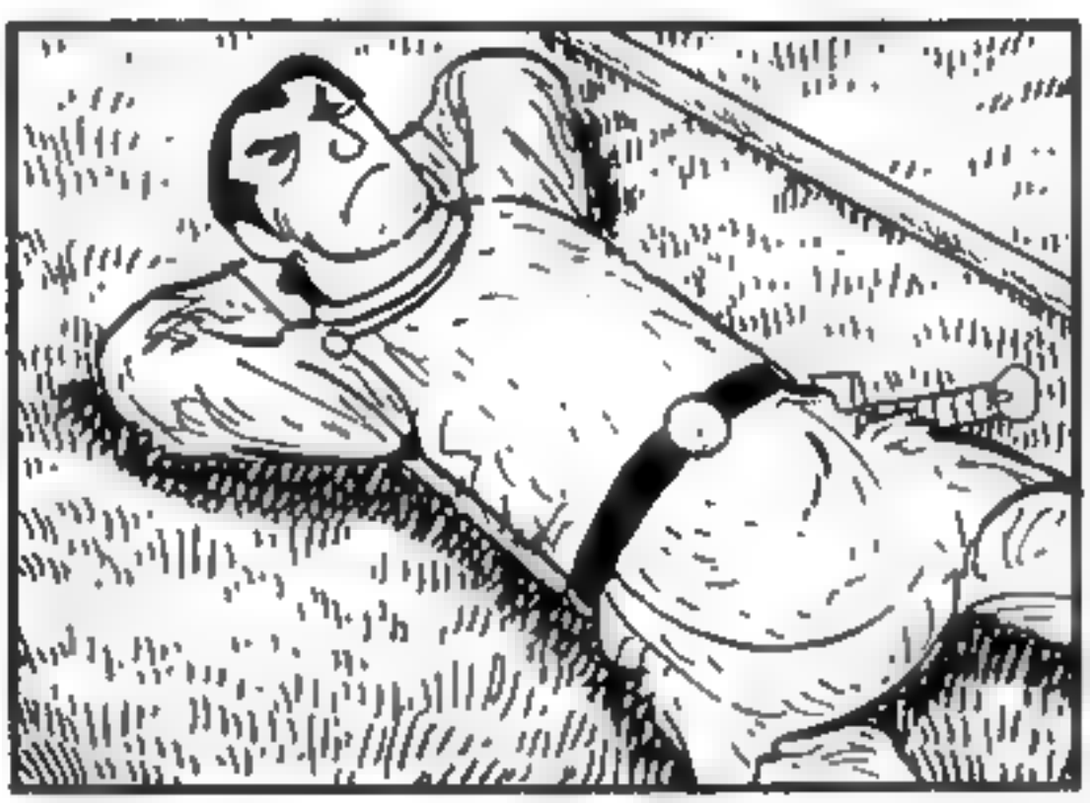
NO... THE NAIMANS STILL ROAM IN THE WEST.

BUT AT LAST, YOU HAVE BECOME THE TRUE LORD OF THE STEPPE,

THE NAIMAN CONFEDERATION IS STRONG AND THEIR LANDS RICH WITH IRON DEPOSITS. IF JAMUKA, TOGHRUL AND SENGGUM HAVE ALL LED FLED TO THEM, THEY WILL SURELY TURN THE NAIMANS AGAINST US. WE CANNOT REST EASY DESPITE OUR VICTORY TODAY.

AT THAT MOMENT, TEMUCHIN SAW ALL THE EXHAUSTED TROOPS AROUND HIM





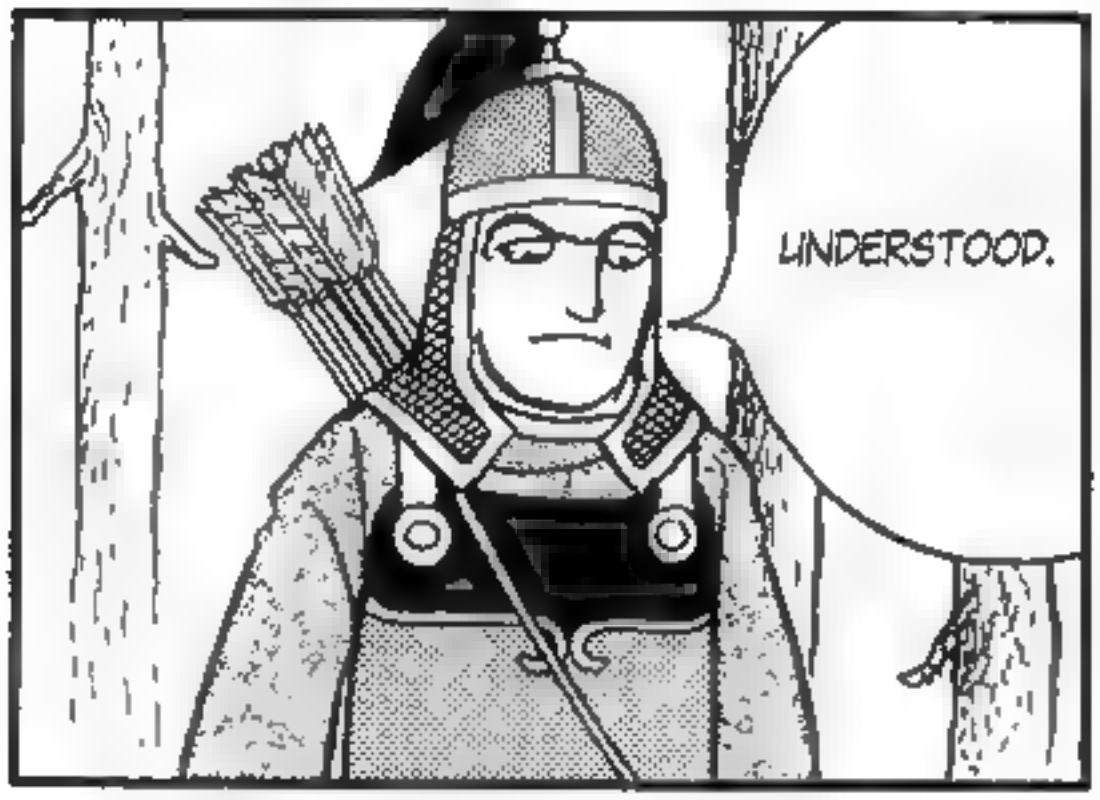
?

NO, THESE MEN DESERVE A BREAK AFTER 3 DAYS OF CONTINUOUS BATTLE. WHAT I MEANT WAS TO POINT OUT HOW THEY'RE DRESSED.

LOOK AT THE TATTERED RAGS THESE BRAVE SOLDIERS WEAR AS ARMOUR. I WISH TO REWARD THEM WITH THE FINEST ARMS AND ARMOUR THIS WORLD HAS TO OFFER, IF POSSIBLE.

ARE YOU SURE, KHAN?

ALLOW NO KEREIT CRAFTSMEN AND IRONSMITHS TO BE KILLED.



WITH THIS VICTORY OVER THE KEREITS, THERE WAS NO LONGER ANY FORCE THAT COULD CHALLENGE TEMUCHIN AND HIS MONGOLS' DOMINION IN EASTERN AND CENTRAL MONGOLIA.

Toghrul Khan's End

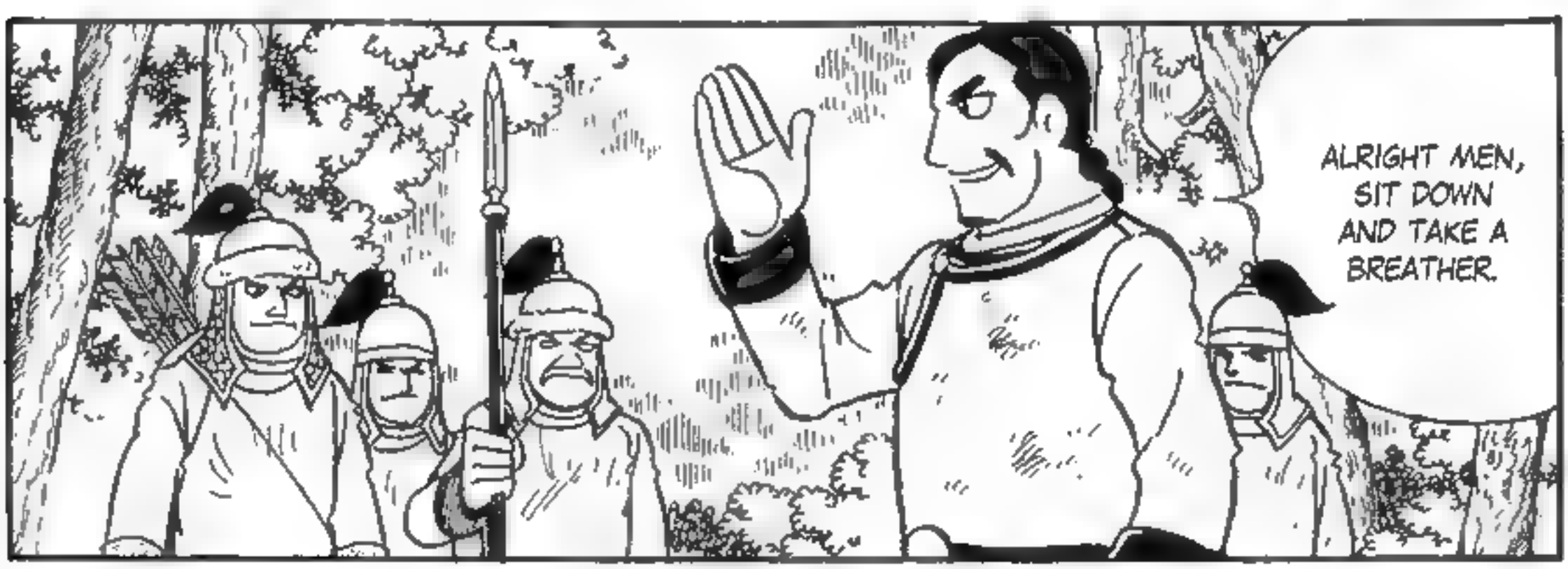
AH, A RIVER!

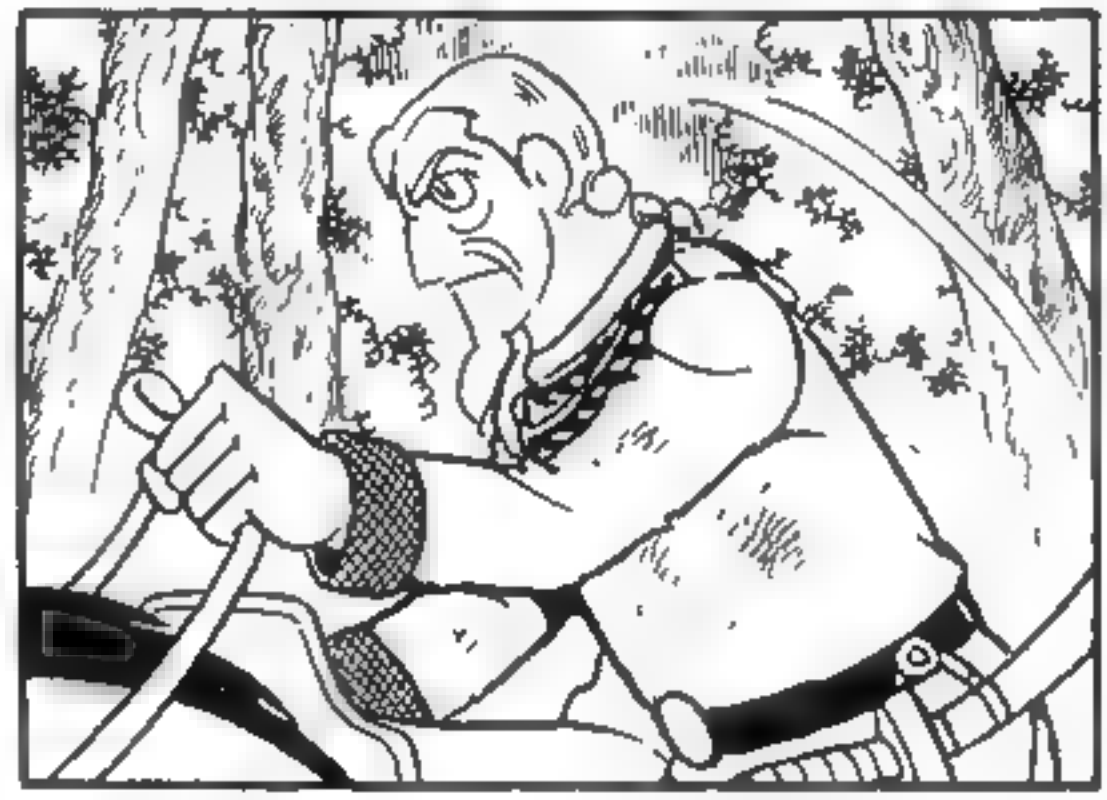
YES, THE DETOUR WE TOOK TO AVOID PURSUIT TOOK LONGER THAN I ANTICIPATED.

WE'VE FINALLY REACHED NAIMAN LANDS, SENGGUM.

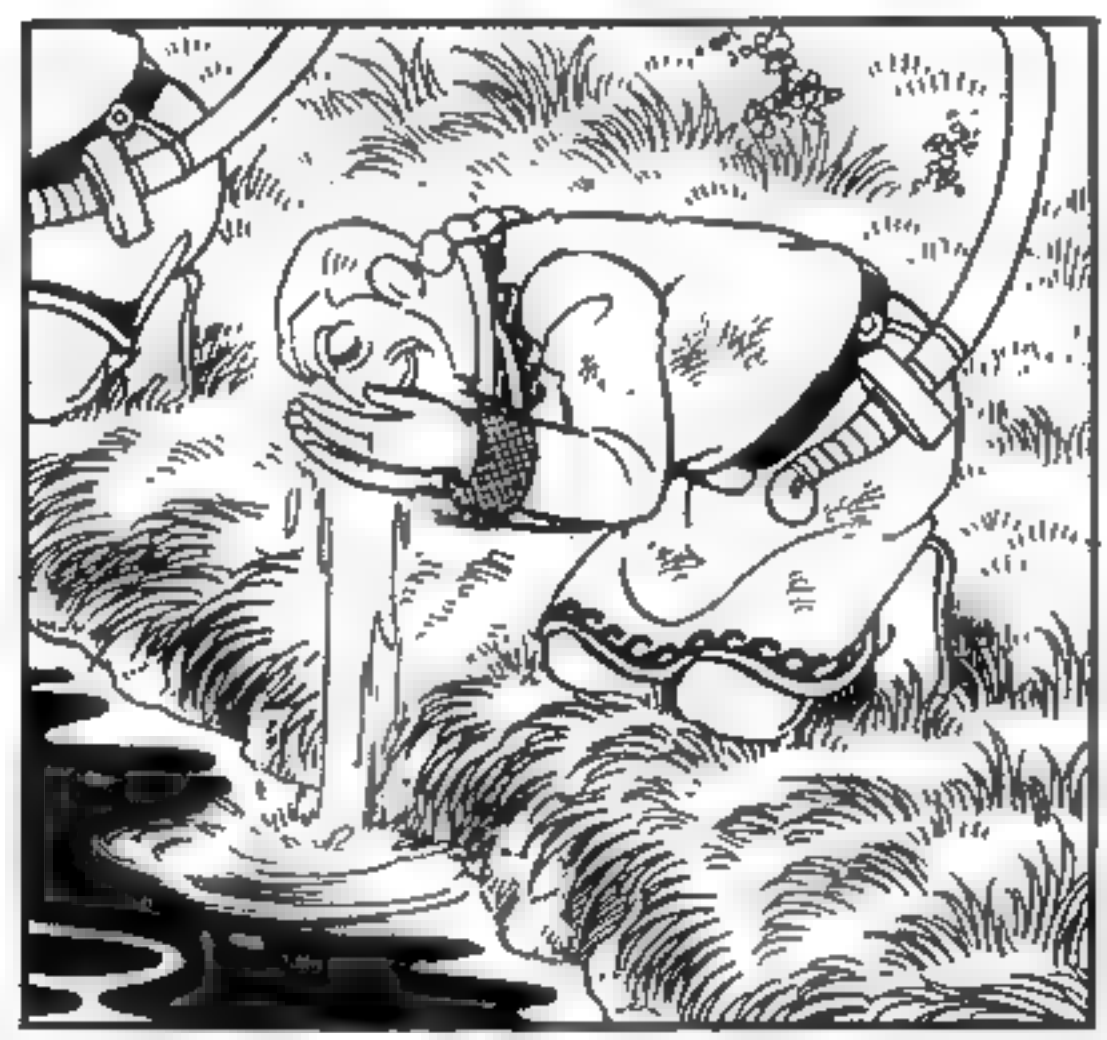
YES, FATHER.

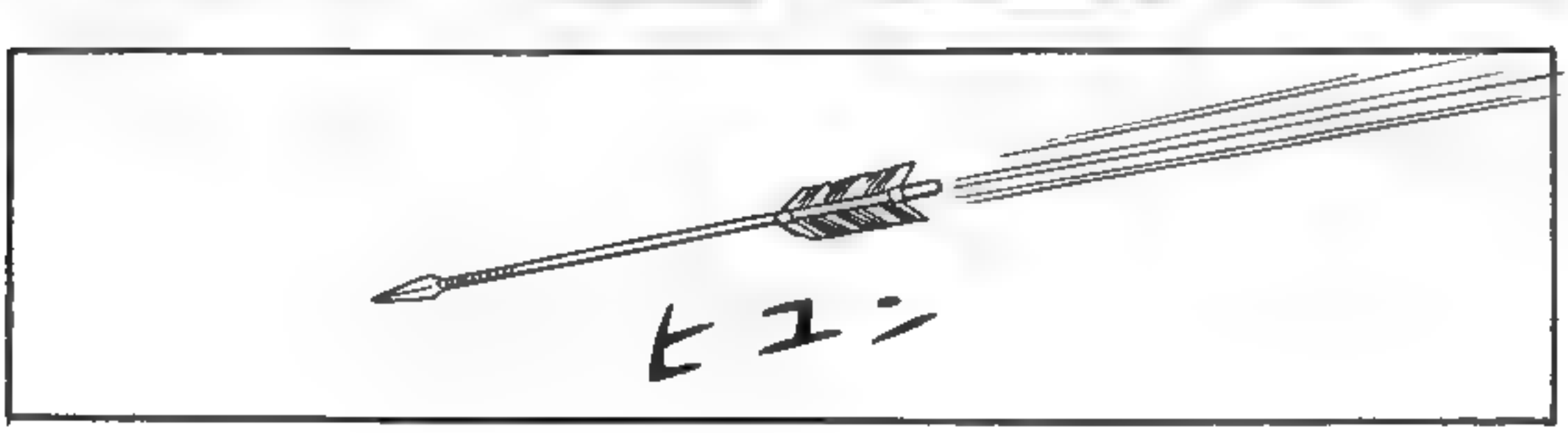
WE SHOULD BE SAFE NOW. I SAY WE STOP HERE AND TAKE A BREAK.


ALRIGHT MEN, SIT DOWN AND TAKE A BREATHER.



AHHH! I NEVER REALIZED BEFORE JUST HOW GOOD WATER TASTES!

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WHO ARE YOU!?

AHH!

I AM A NAIMAN BORDER GUARD CAPTAIN! WHO ARE YOU THAT YOU THINK YOU CAN TRESPASS HERE!?

AHH, SO YOU'RE A NAIMAN SOLDIER? I AM TOGHRUL, THE WANG KHAN OF THE KEREITS. LEAD ME TO YOUR KHAN.

AHAHAHA!

WHAT...?

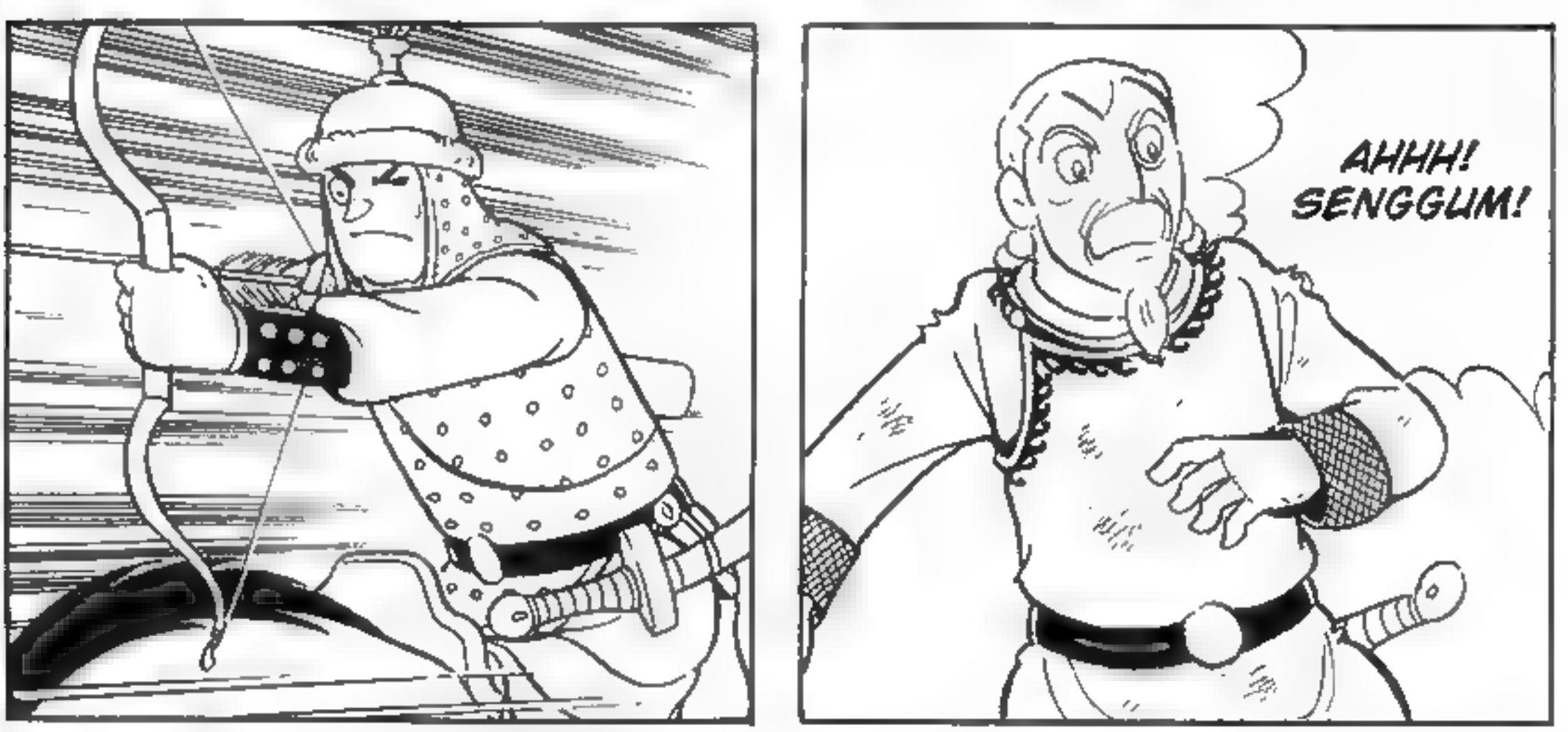
IF YOU'RE GOING TO TELL A LIE, TELL A MORE BELIEVABLE ONE AT LEAST, YOU FOOL!

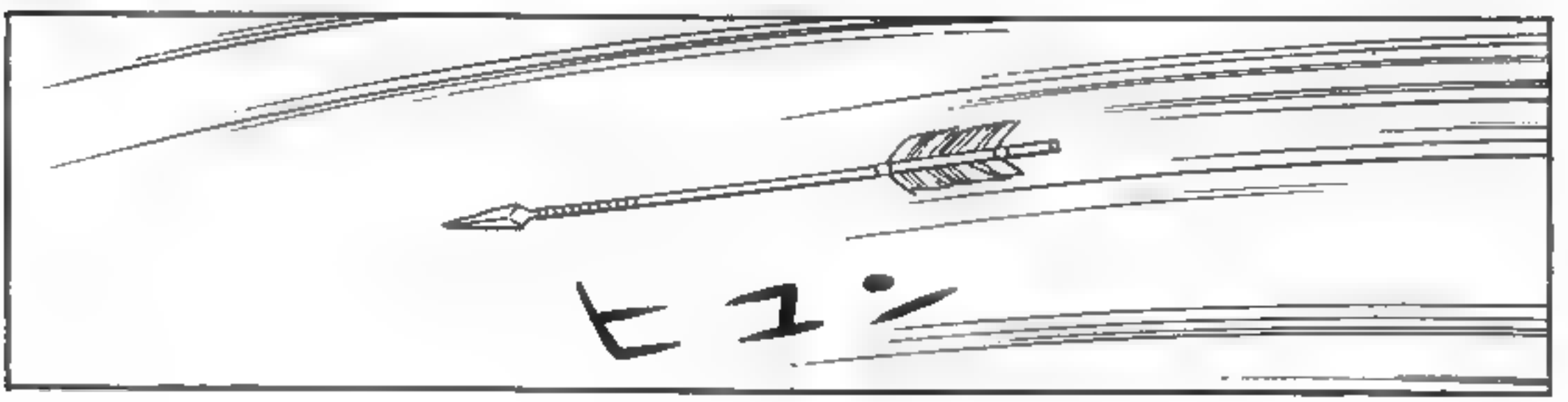
WHAT'S SO HUMOROUS?

WAIT, THIS IS A MISUNDERSTANDING! I'VE ONLY DIRTIED MY CLOTHES LIKE SO TO HIDE FROM MY ENEMIES FOR THE TIME BEING!

TOGHRUL KHAN IS SAID TO LIVE IN AN OPULENT GER DECORATED GOLD, SILVER, AND SILK AND CONTROLS A FORCE TENS OF THOUSANDS STRONG ACROSS A VAST REALM. HE IS MOST CERTAINLY NOT SOMEONE A POOR AND DIRTY OLD MAN LIKE YOU CAN IMPERSONATE!

I HAVE NO EARS FOR SUSPICIOUS ARMED MEN TRESPASSING IN NAIMAN LANDS!


AHHH! SENGGUM!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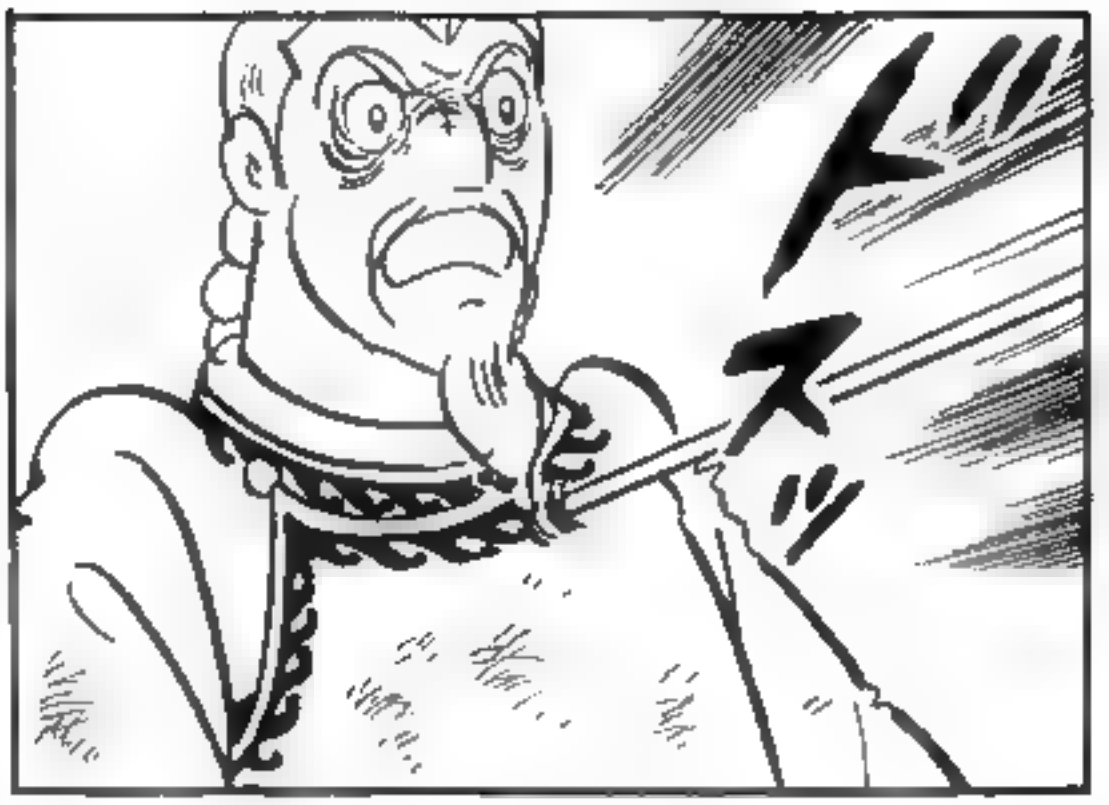
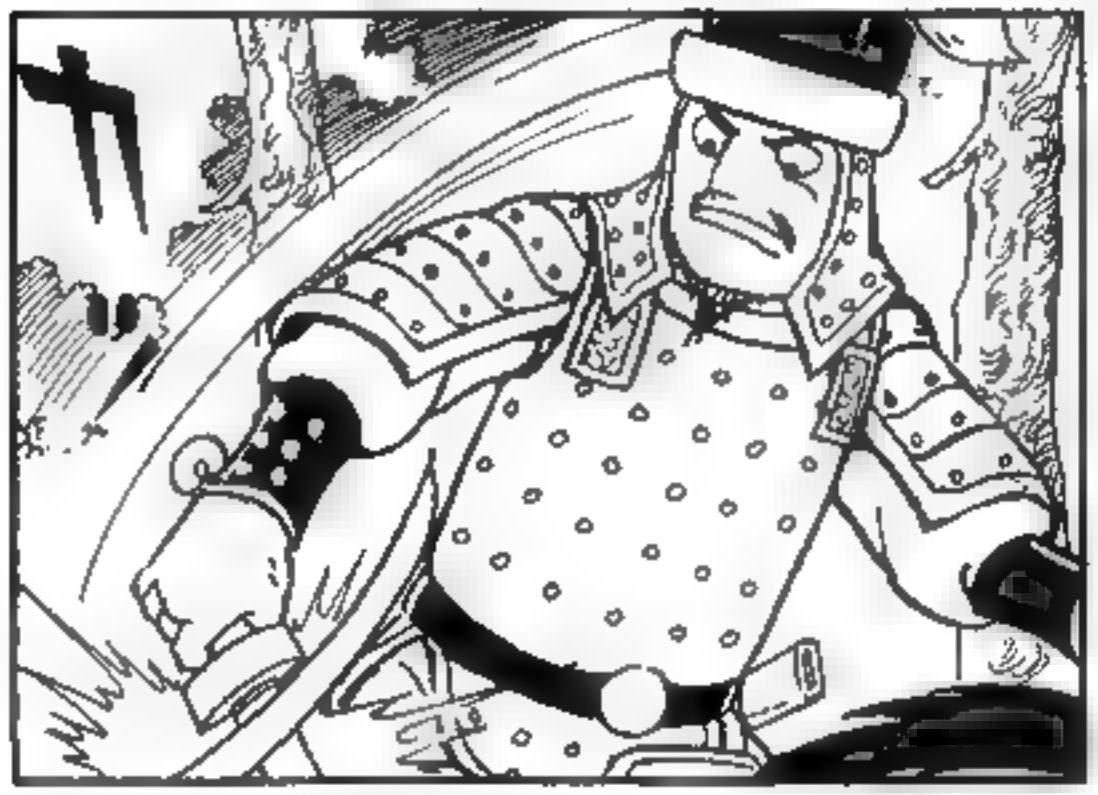
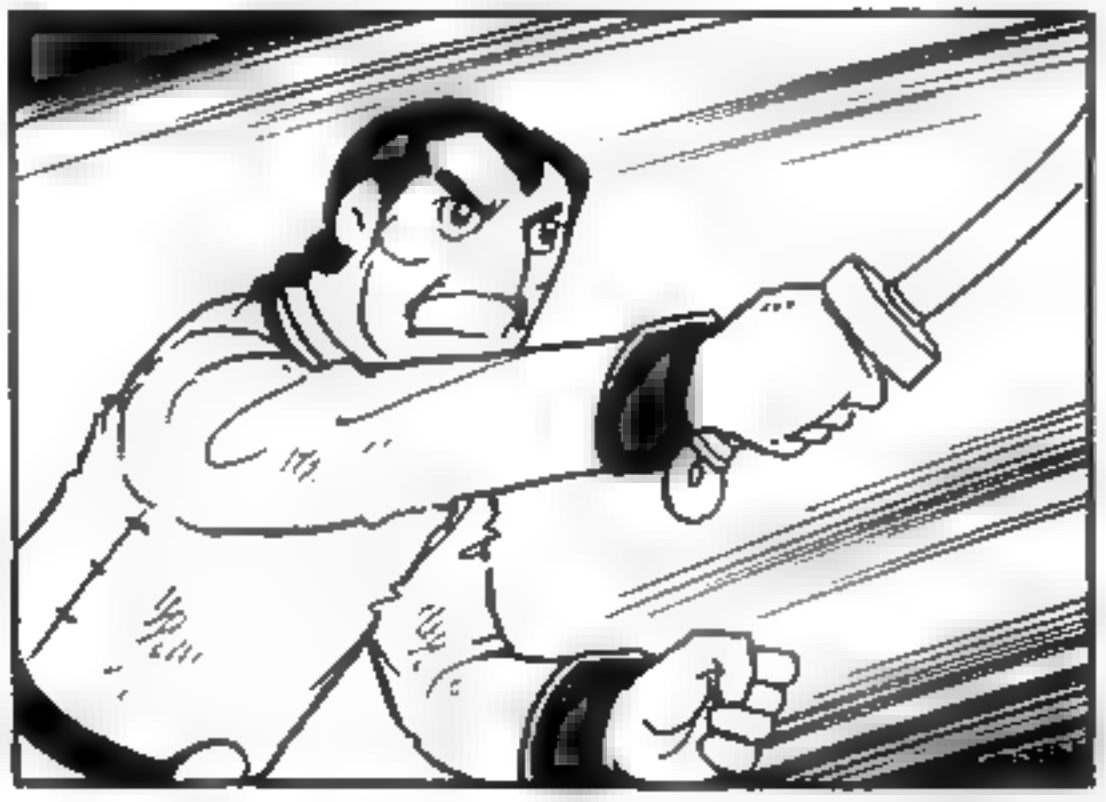
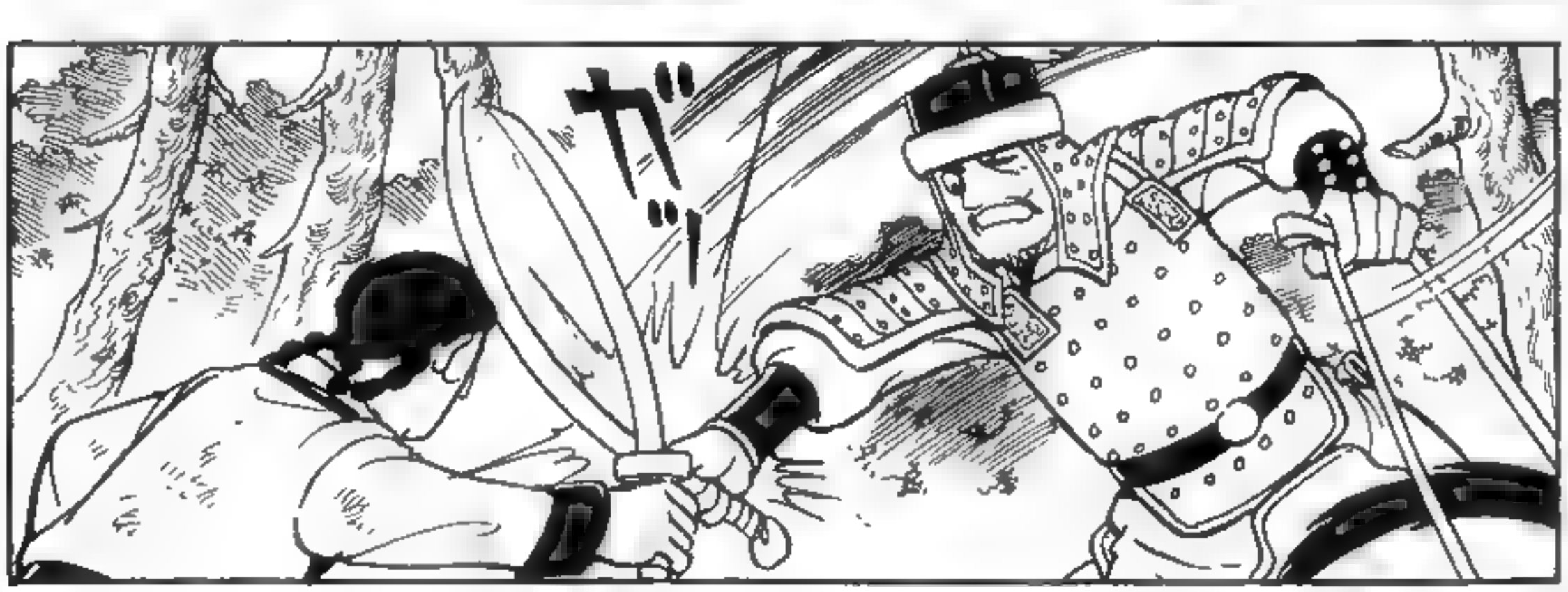
FATHER!



YOU SCUM!







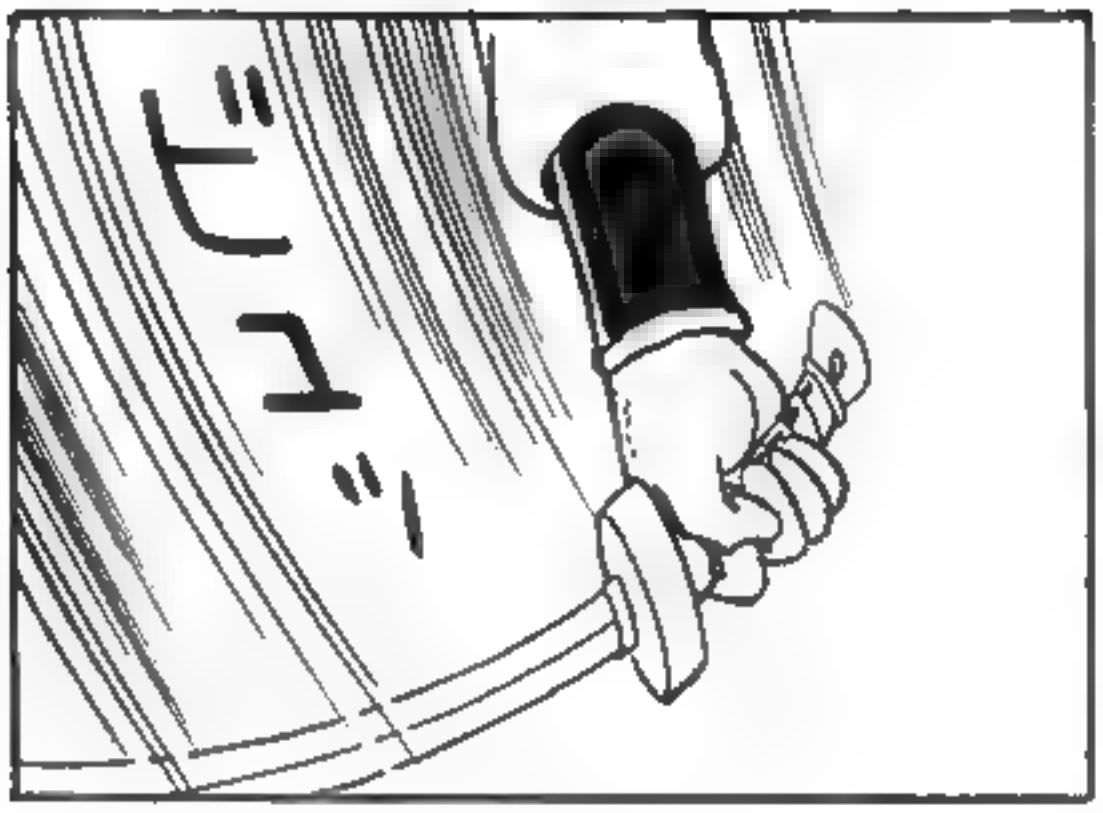
GAHHH!

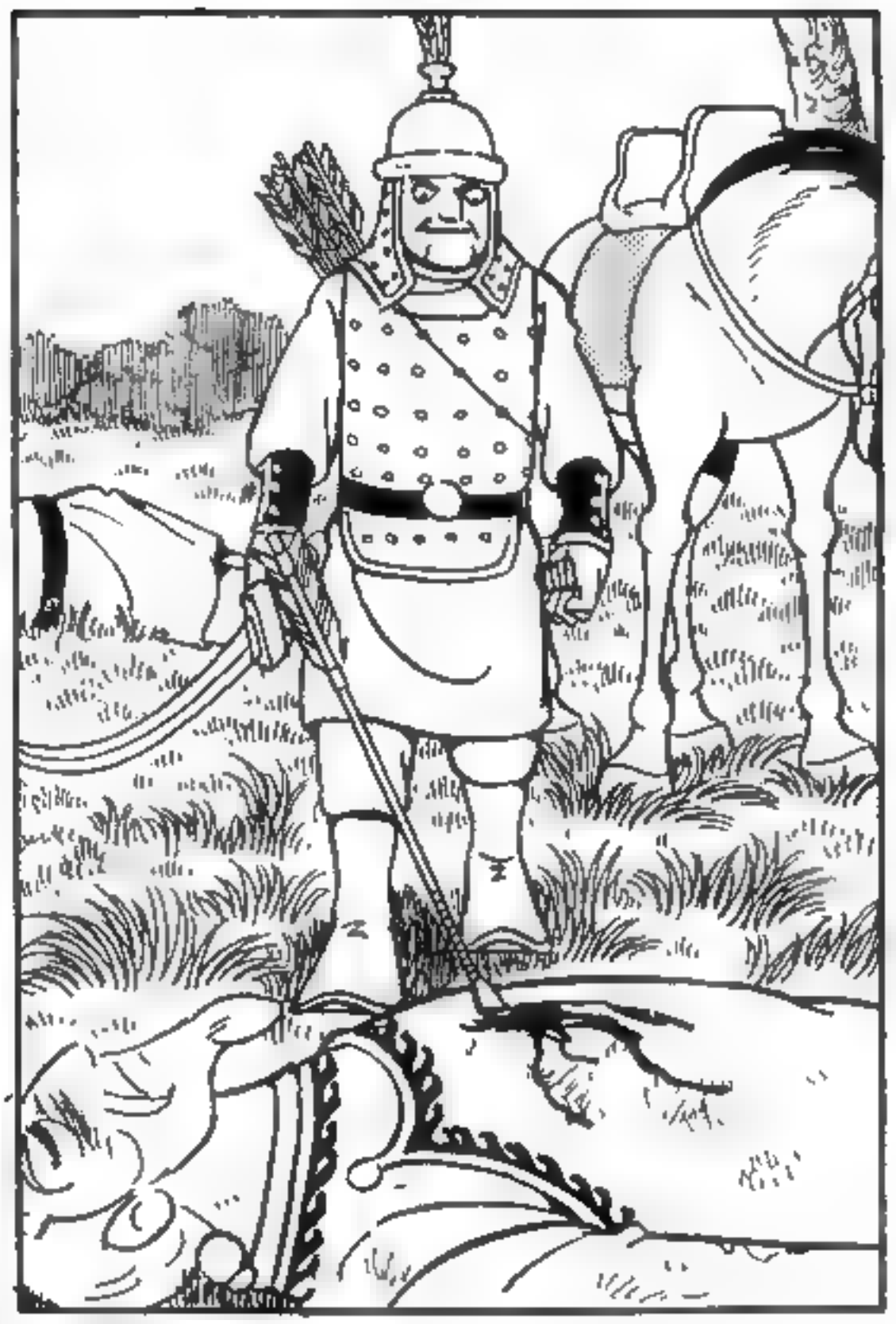
UGHH!

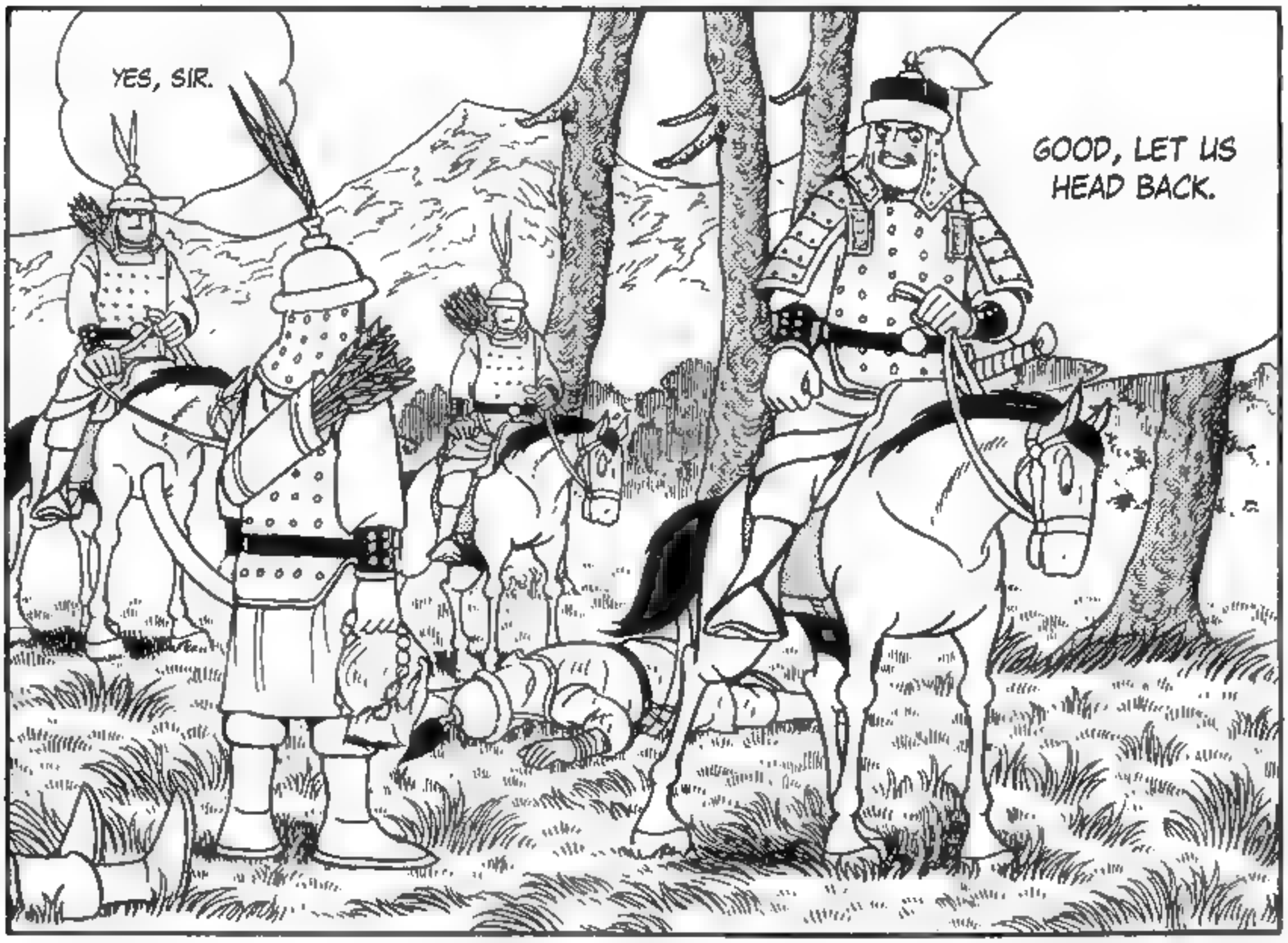
AGHH!

GOOD. CUT OFF THE MAN'S HEAD TO TAKE BACK AND SHOW TO OUR KHAN.

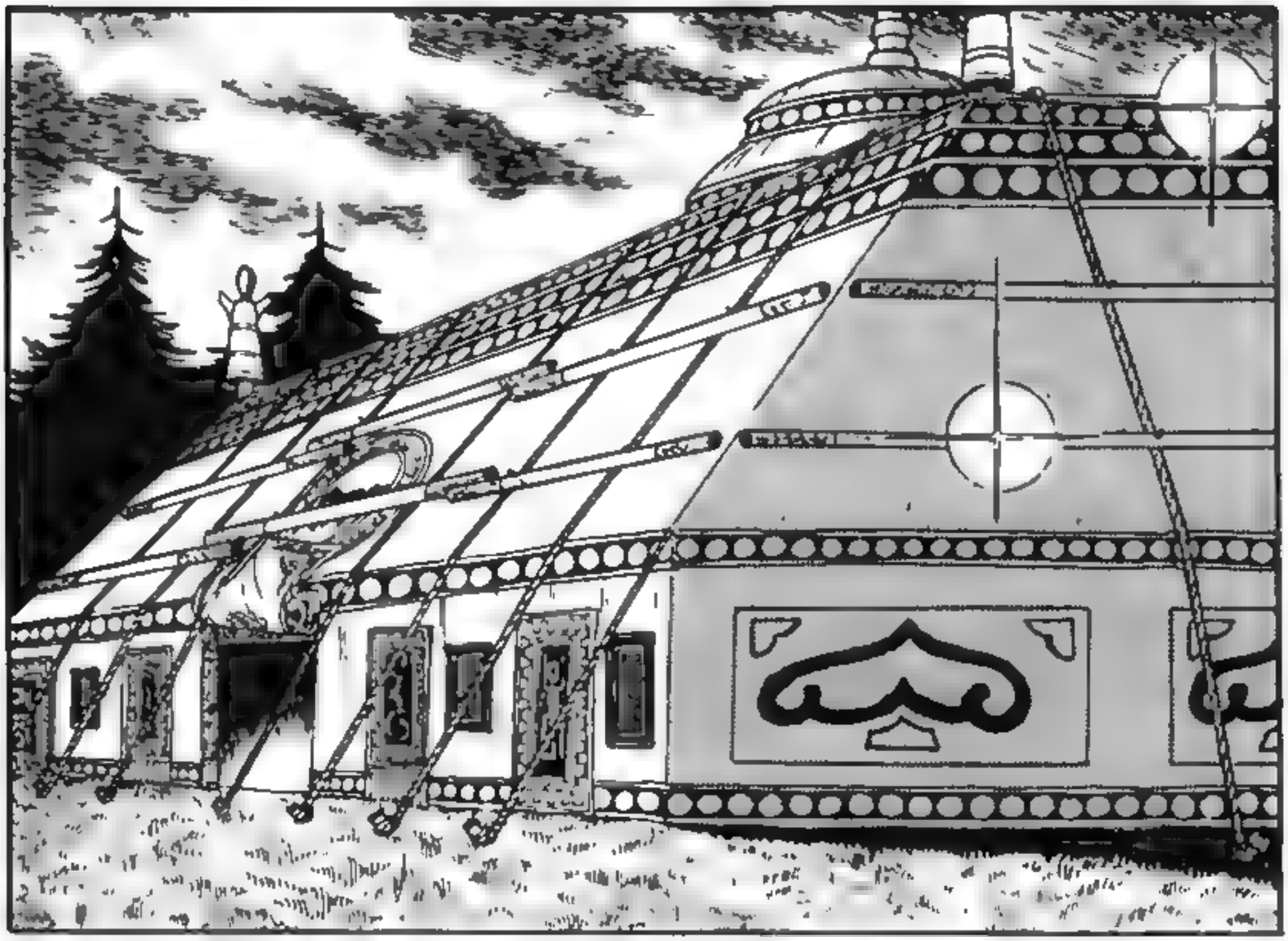
SIR, THEY'VE ALL BEEN TAKEN CARE OF.


THUD




YES, SIR.
GOOD, LET US HEAD BACK.

ONCE THE RICHEST AND MOST POWERFUL MAN IN WESTERN MONGOLIA, TOGHRUL MET MISFORTUNE WITH THE VERY NAIMANS HE SOUGHT SHELTER WITH HE AND HIS KEREITS WERE NOW NO MORE



YES, NEAR THE NAIMAN BORDERS, KHAN.
YOU FOUND TOGHRUL'S CORPSE!?

!

MN...

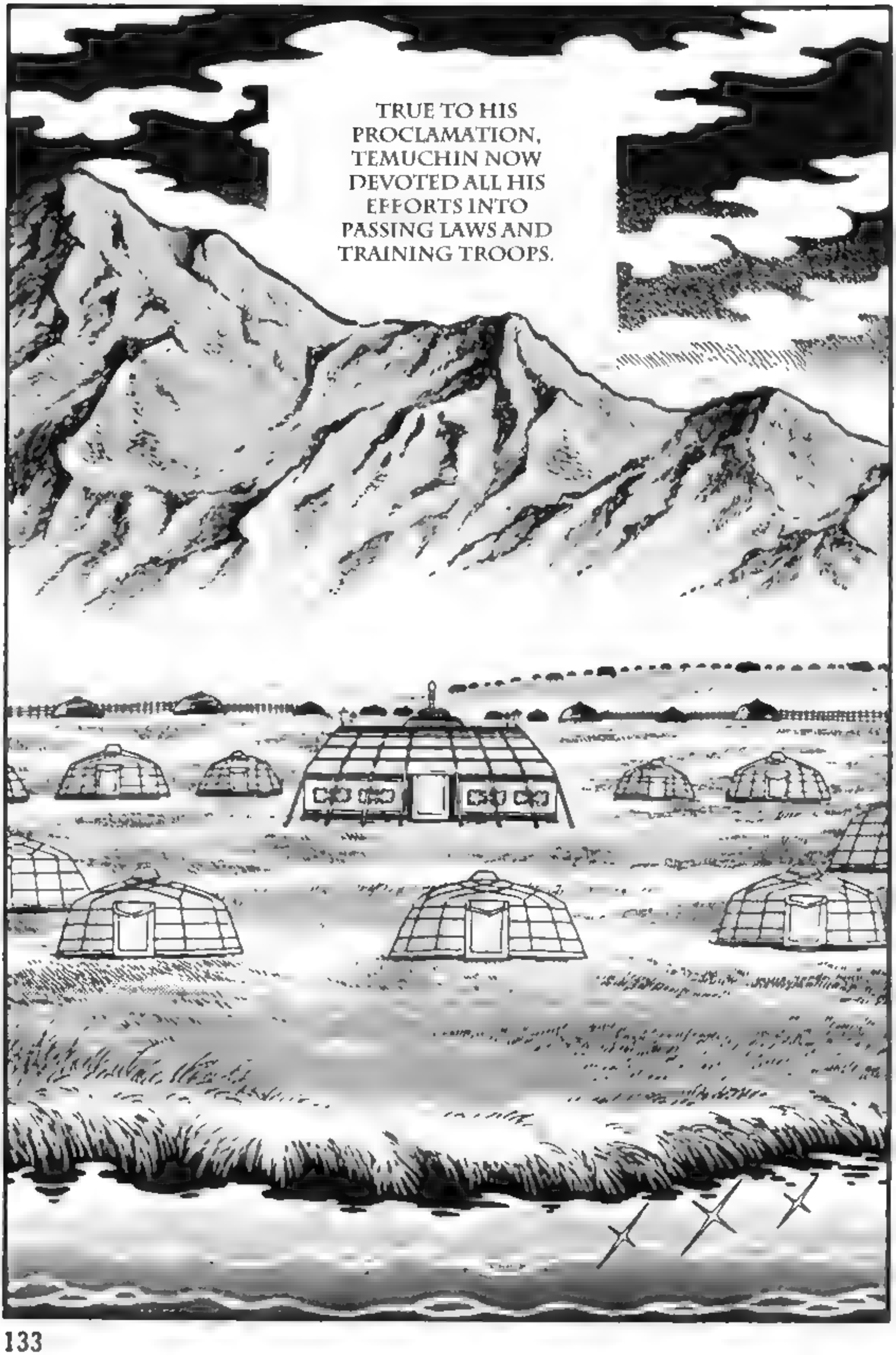
I BELIEVE HE WAS KILLED BY THE NAIMANS.

SO THIS IS HOW THE GREAT WANG KHAN MET HIS END...
LISTEN TO ME WELL! THERE IS NO LONGER ANY TRIBE THAT BARES ITS FANGS AGAINST US MONGOLS IN THE STEPPE! BUT DO NOT LET DOWN YOUR GUARDS, FOR NEW ENEMIES MAY ALWAYS BE GENERATED BY THE JIN EMPIRE!
FOR GENERATIONS, THE MIGHTY JIN HAVE USED THEIR WEALTH TO BRIBE TRIBES INTO DOING THEIR BIDDING. THEY SEEK TO KEEP US DIVIDED, TO SEPARATE US INTO SMALL HERDS LIKE LIVESTOCK SO THAT WE ARE MORE MANAGEABLE!

WELL I SAY NO MORE! OUR TRUE ENEMY IS THE JIN, SO DO NOT REJOICE NOW AT TOGHRUL'S DEATH!

HOW MANY OF OUR ANCESTORS HAVE PERISHED TO FULFIL THE WISHES OF THE JIN, TO RID ITS ENEMIES, AND TO PROTECT ITS BORDERS!?

FOR NOW, WE MUST BUILD UP OUR GREAT CONFEDERATION. WE MUST FORGE A NEW SOCIETY FOR OURSELVES IN WHICH THE PEOPLE CAN SLEEP IN PEACE WITHOUT FEAR OF BEING MURDERED IN THEIR SLEEP OR HAVING THEIR LIVESTOCK STOLEN! UNITE UNDER MY BANNER TO CREATE A RICH AND MIGHTY KHANATE!


TRUE TO HIS PROCLAMATION, TEMUCHIN NOW DEVOTED ALL HIS EFFORTS INTO PASSING LAWS AND TRAINING TROOPS.

NAIMAN
KHANATE

TAYANG
KHAN

FINE, JAMUKA.

HOW ARE YOU FEELING TODAY, TAYANG KHAN?

I'VE RECEIVED THE HEAD OF AN OLD MAN ONE OF MY BORDER PATROLS KILLED. APPARENTLY, HE CLAIMED TO BE TOGHRUL KHAN, BUT CAN YOU CHECK FOR ME?

YES, I WILL TAKE A LOOK THEN.

WHAT!
THIS IS... MOST DEFINITELY TOGHRUL'S HEAD.

SO THIS OLD MAN WAS TELLING THE TRUTH...?

HE WAS MOST LIKELY ATTACKED BY TEMUCHIN, FORCING HIM TO FLEE TO YOUR LANDS.

BE WARNED, TAYANG KHAN. IF EVEN THE KHAN OF THE KEREITS CAN BE REDUCED TO THIS... IMAGINE WHAT TERRORS TEMUCHIN AND HIS MONGOL WOLVES WILL TRY TO DO TO YOU.

YOU MUST STRIKE BEFORE TEMUCHIN BUILDS UP HIS STRENGTH EVEN MORE.

T-THAT IS INDEED TROUBLING. WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST I DO?

HOW SHOULD WE PROCEED WITH OUR ATTACK THEN?

I SHALL, OF COURSE, GLADLY LEND A HAND IF YOU WISH TO ATTACK THE MONGOLS.

MANY TRIBES HAVE BEEN WEAKENED OR MASSACRED BY TEMUCHIN AND THEIR REMNANTS NOW LIVE UNEASILY, DOING THEIR BEST TO HIDE FROM THE MONGOLS. THEY LONG FOR A CHANCE TO EXACT VENGEANCE.

HMM, I SEE... YES, THAT WOULD CONSIDERABLY SWELL MY NUMBERS.

MERKITS, TARTARS, KEREITS, TO NAME JUST A FEW... CONTACT THEM AND THEY WILL BE ONLY TOO HAPPY TO GATHER UNDER YOUR BANNER.

YES, YES...

YOU SHOULD FIRST MAKE CONTACT WITH THE ONGGUT TRIBE TO THE SOUTH. IF THEY AGREE TO JOIN HANDS, THEN WE CAN TRAP TEMUCHIN FROM TWO DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS.

YES, I WILL GET TO WORK AT ONCE.

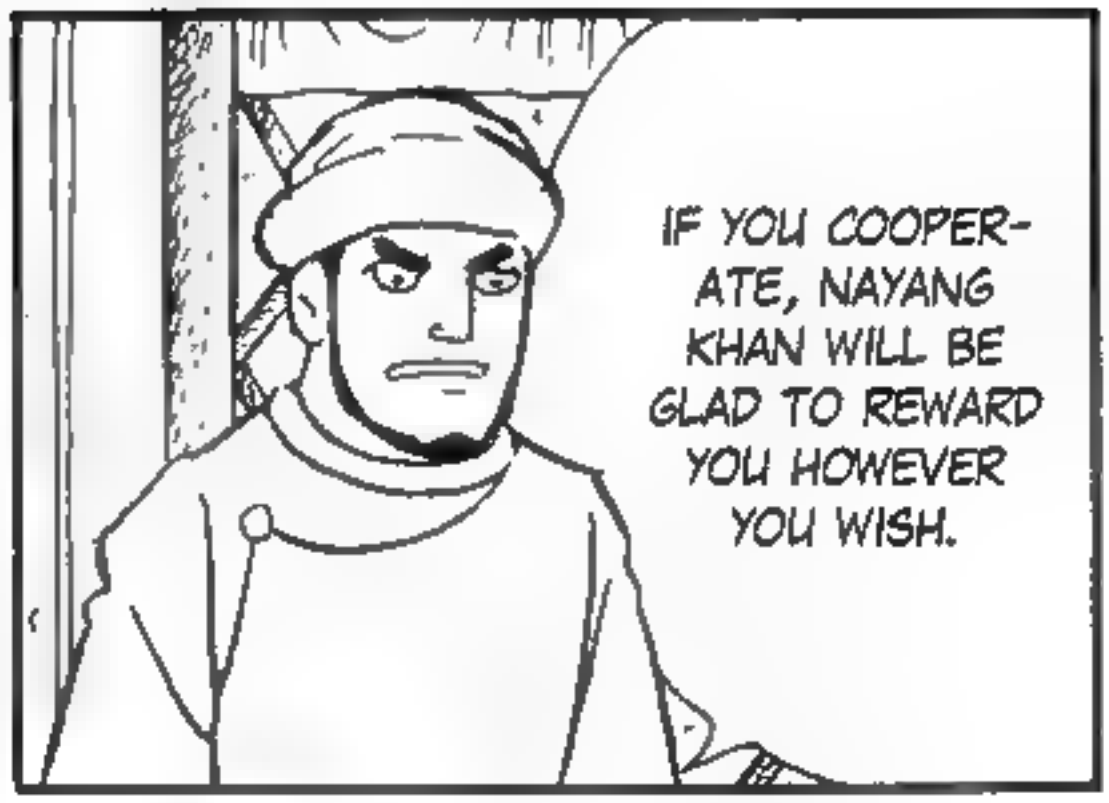
I'LL COUNT ON YOU TO GATHER DISAFFECTED TRIBES DISCONTENT WITH MONGOL RULE WHILE I SEND A MESSAGE TO THE ONGGUTS.

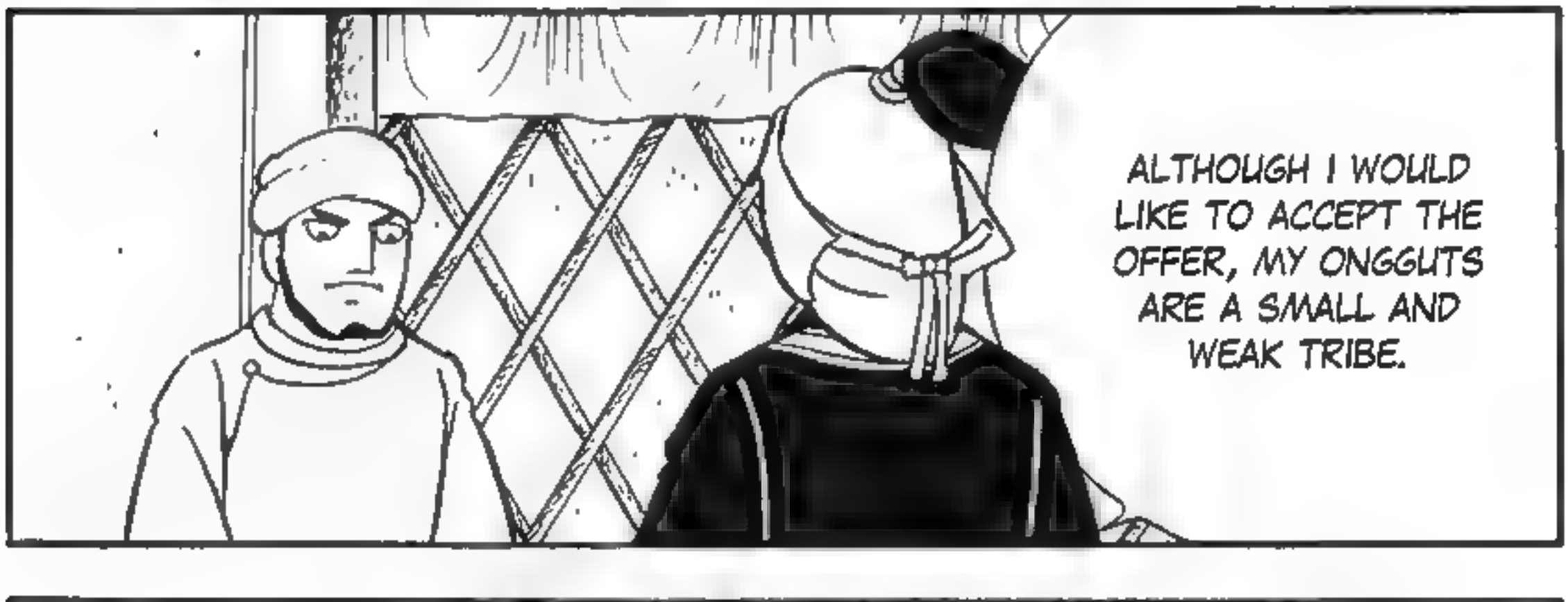
NAIMAN MESSENGERS RODE TOWARDS THE ONGGUTS, WHO LIVED IN SOUTHEAST MONGOLIA.

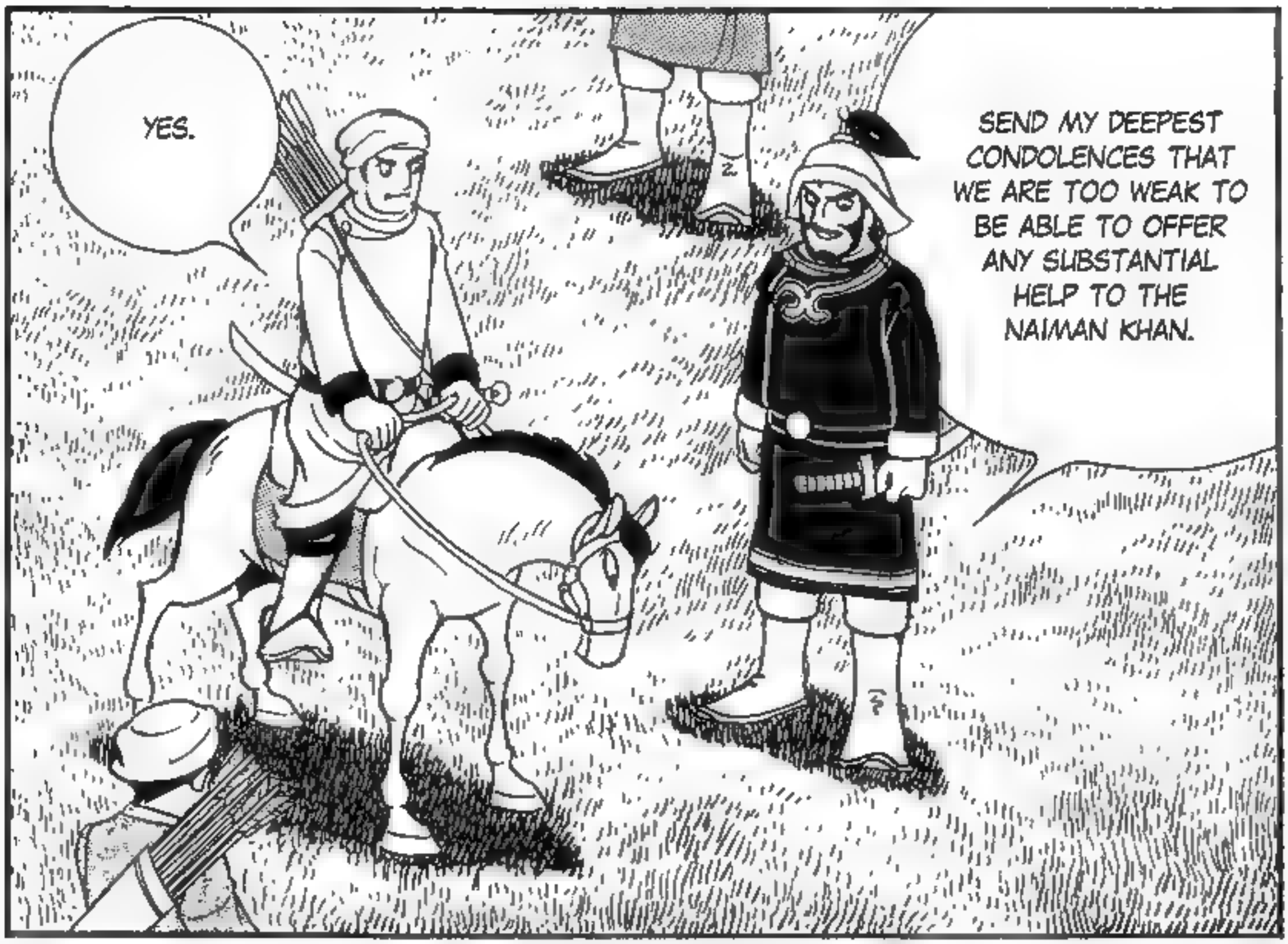
ONGGUT
CAMPS

TEMUCHIN'S POWER GROWS TOO STRONG, THREATENING ALL SMALLER TRIBES IN THE STEPPE. WE MUST JOIN HANDS AND ATTACK WHILE WE STILL CAN.
ATTACK THE MONGOLS?

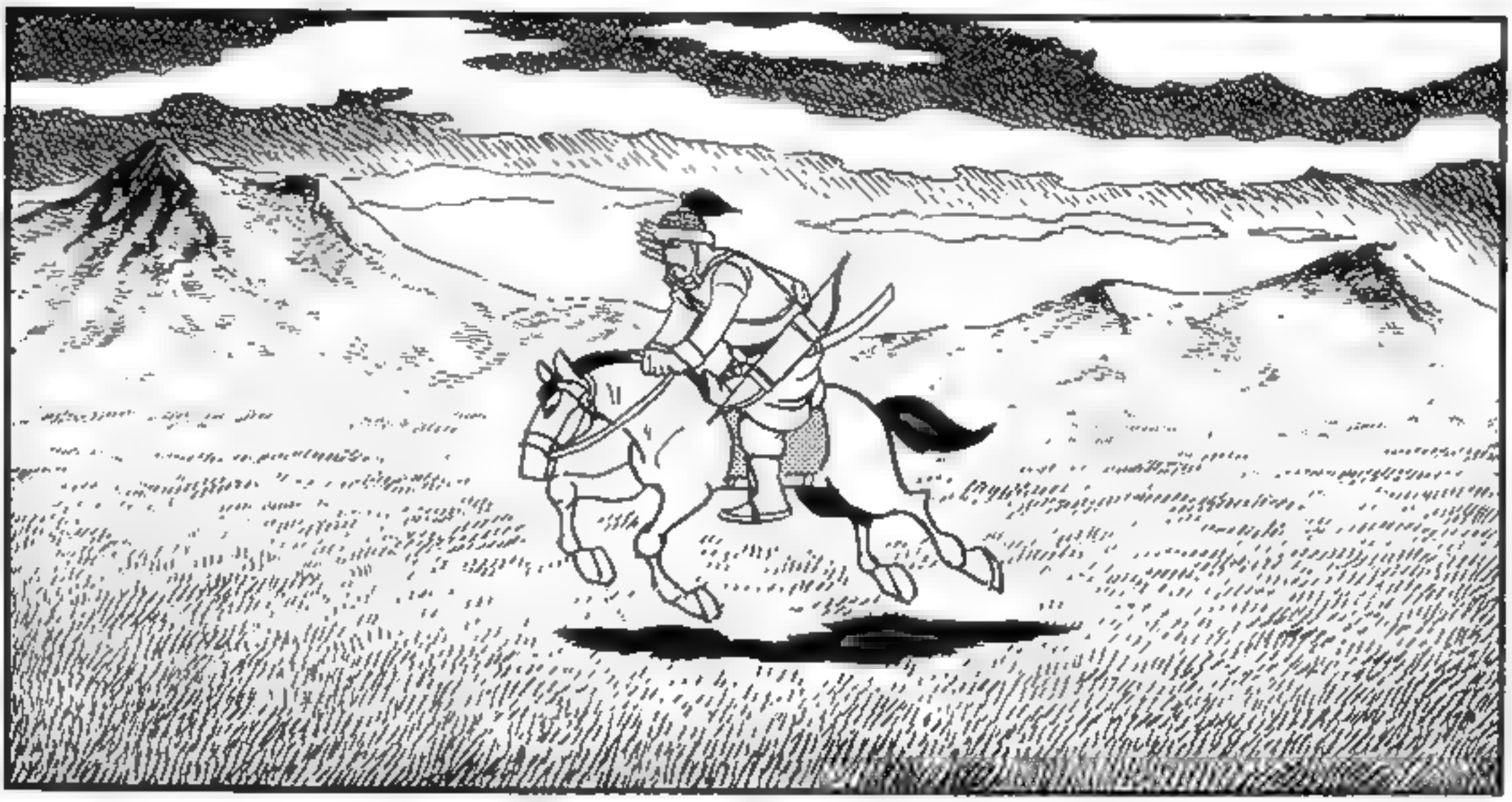
HMM...

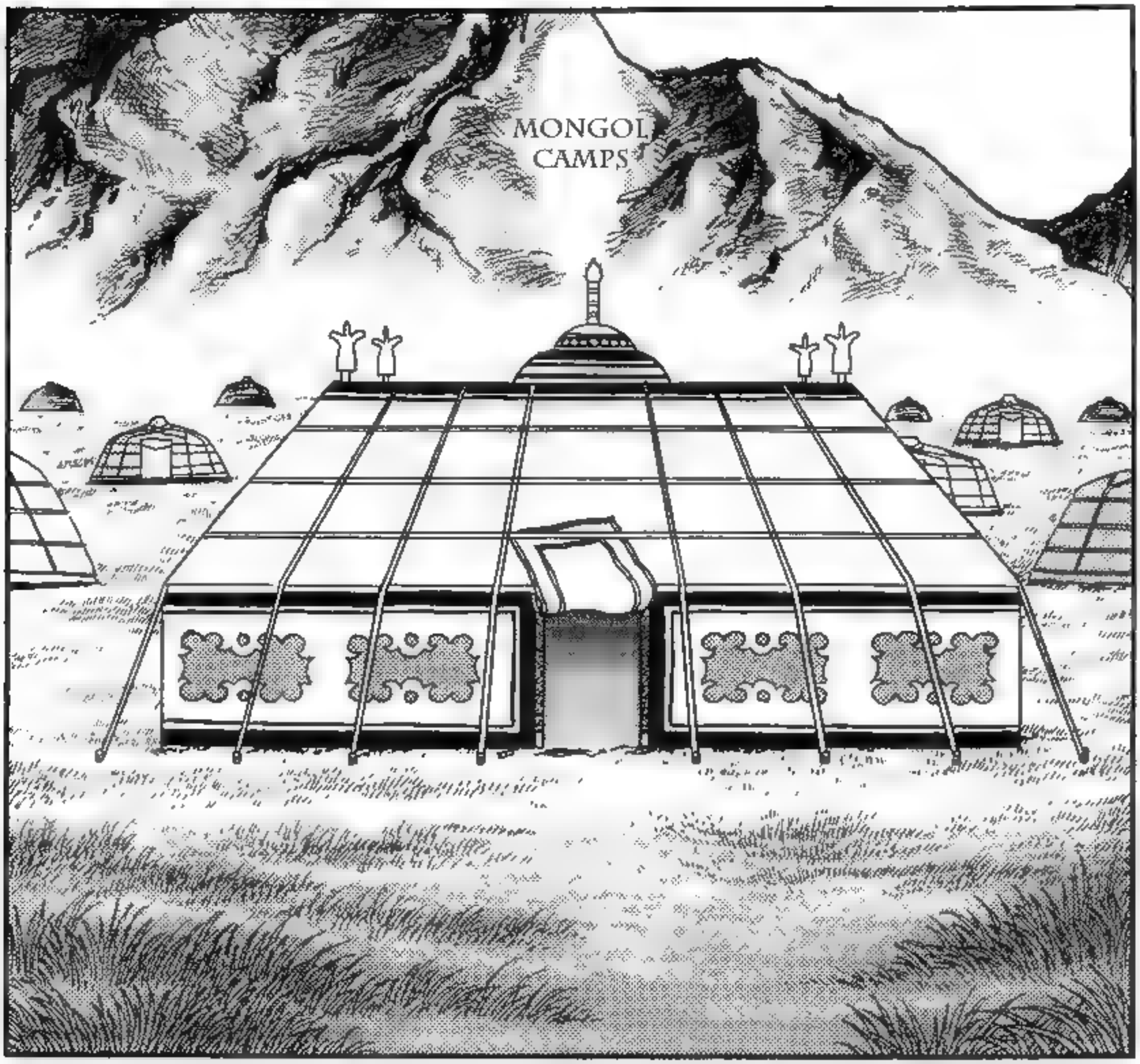

IF YOU COOPERATE, NAYANG KHAN WILL BE GLAD TO REWARD YOU HOWEVER YOU WISH.

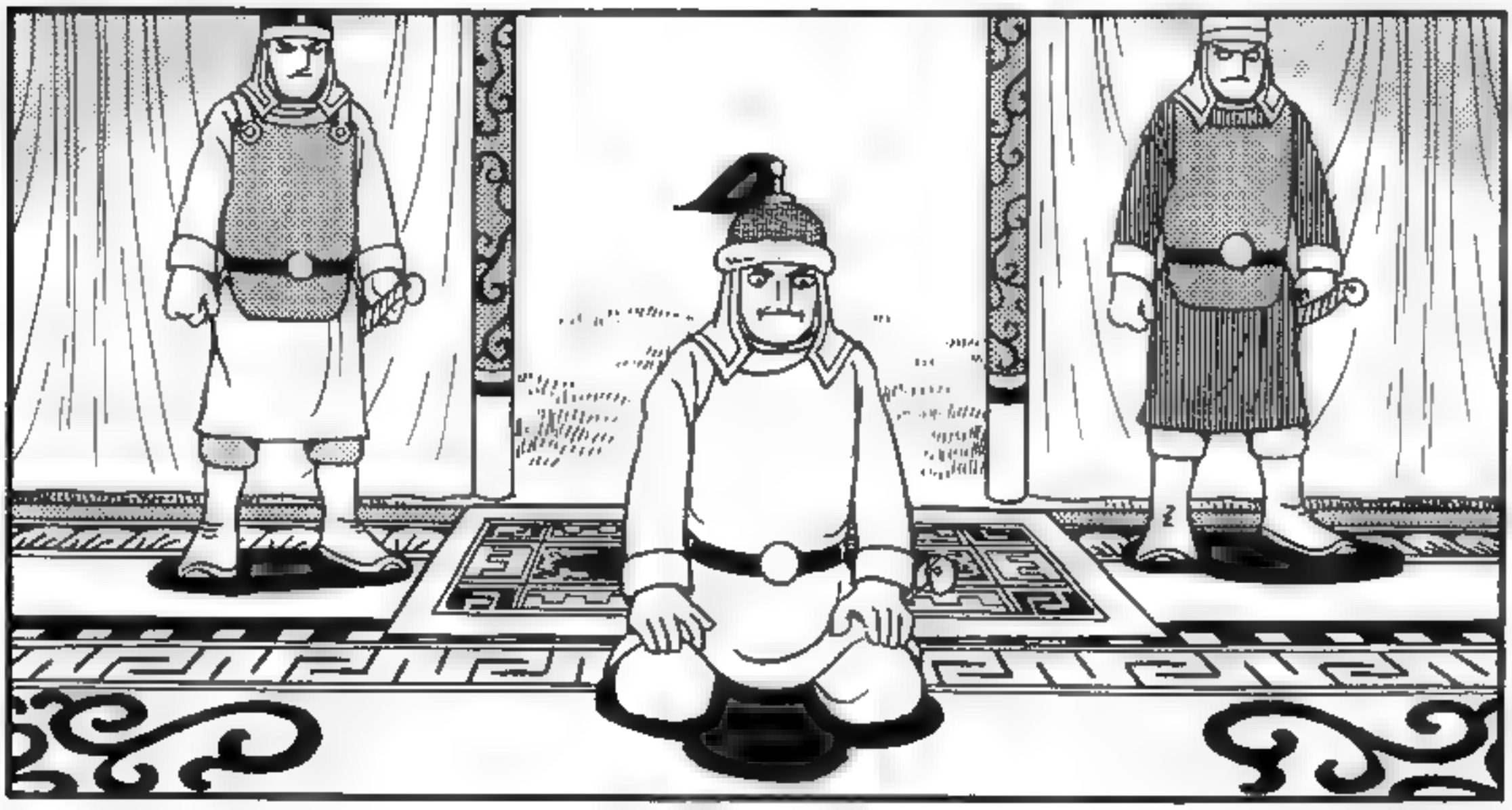

ALTHOUGH I WOULD LIKE TO ACCEPT THE OFFER, MY ONGGUTS ARE A SMALL AND WEAK TRIBE.
I SEE. VERY WELL, I SHALL INFORM MY KHAN THAT YOU DECLINED.
ON THE OTHER HAND, YOUR NAIMANS ARE LARGE AND POWERFUL, CAPABLE OF TAKING ON THE MONGOLS ALONE. ANY HELP WE CAN OFFER IS INSIGNIFICANT.

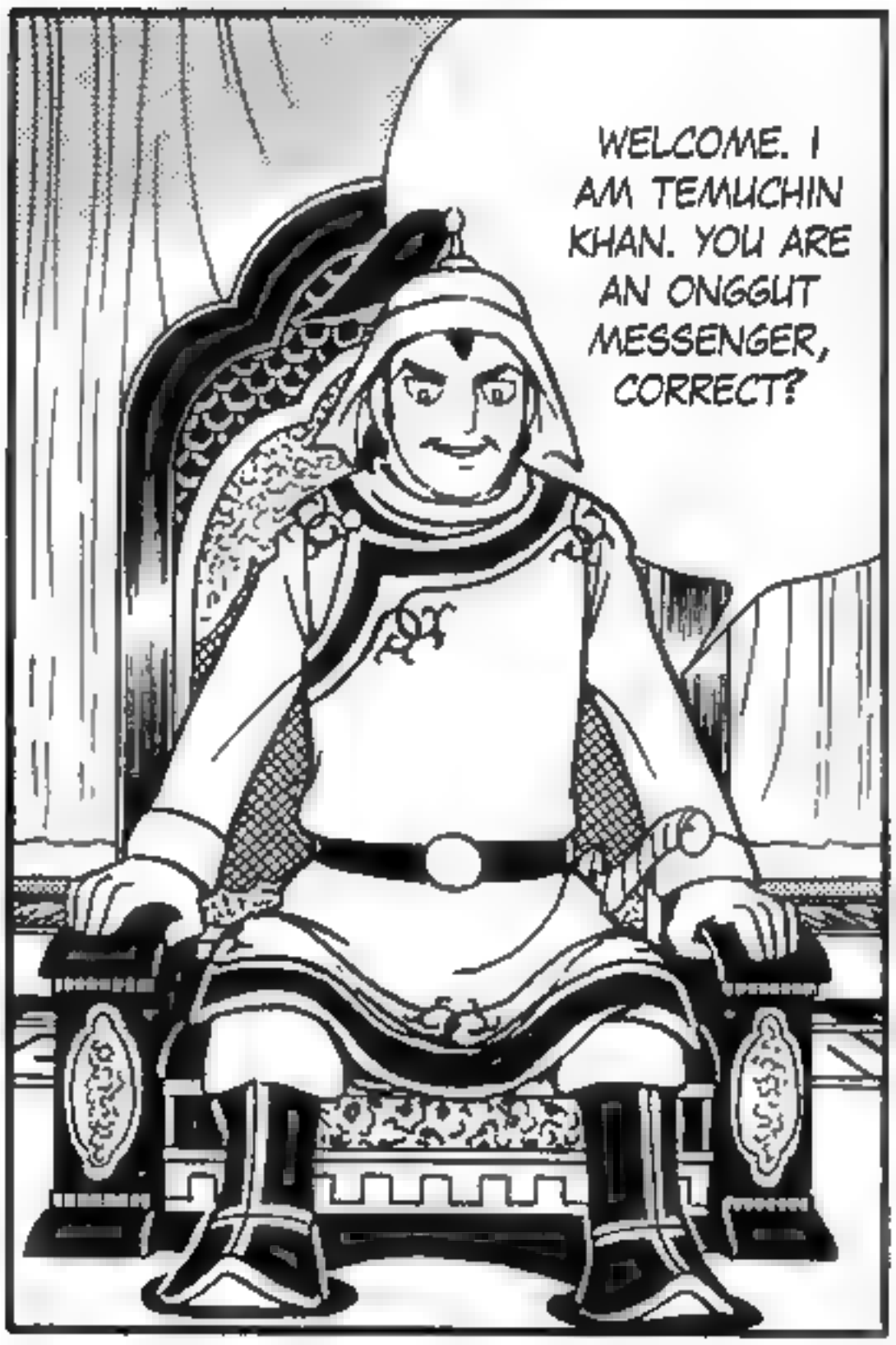

YES.
SEND MY DEEPEST CONDOLENCES THAT WE ARE TOO WEAK TO BE ABLE TO OFFER ANY SUBSTANTIAL HELP TO THE NAIMAN KHAN.

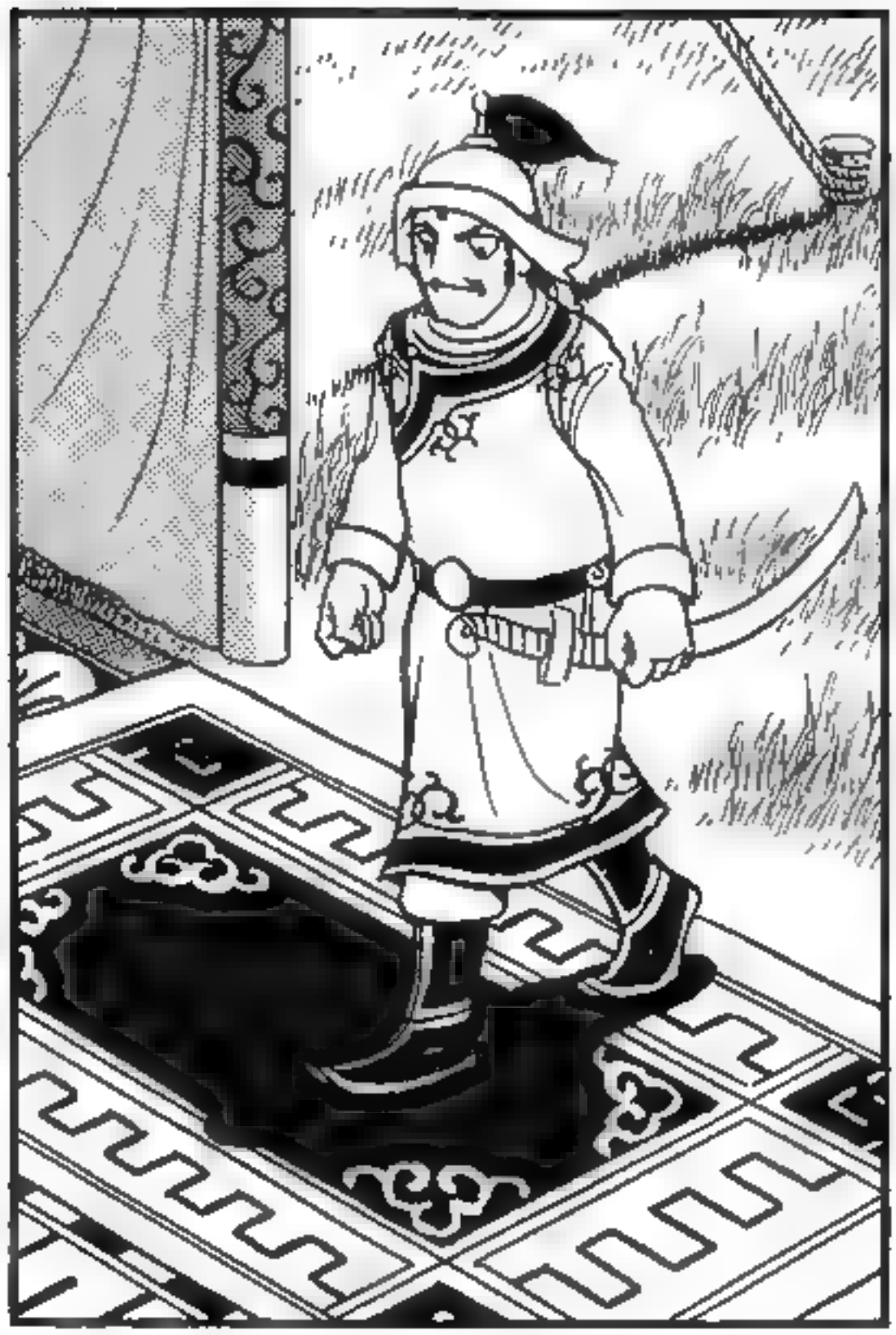
YES?
YOU THERE.
AT ONCE, SIR.
RIDE TO THE MONGOL CAMPS AT ONCE AND INFORM TEMUCHIN KHAN THAT THE NAIMANS ARE CONSPIRING TO BRING HIM DOWN.

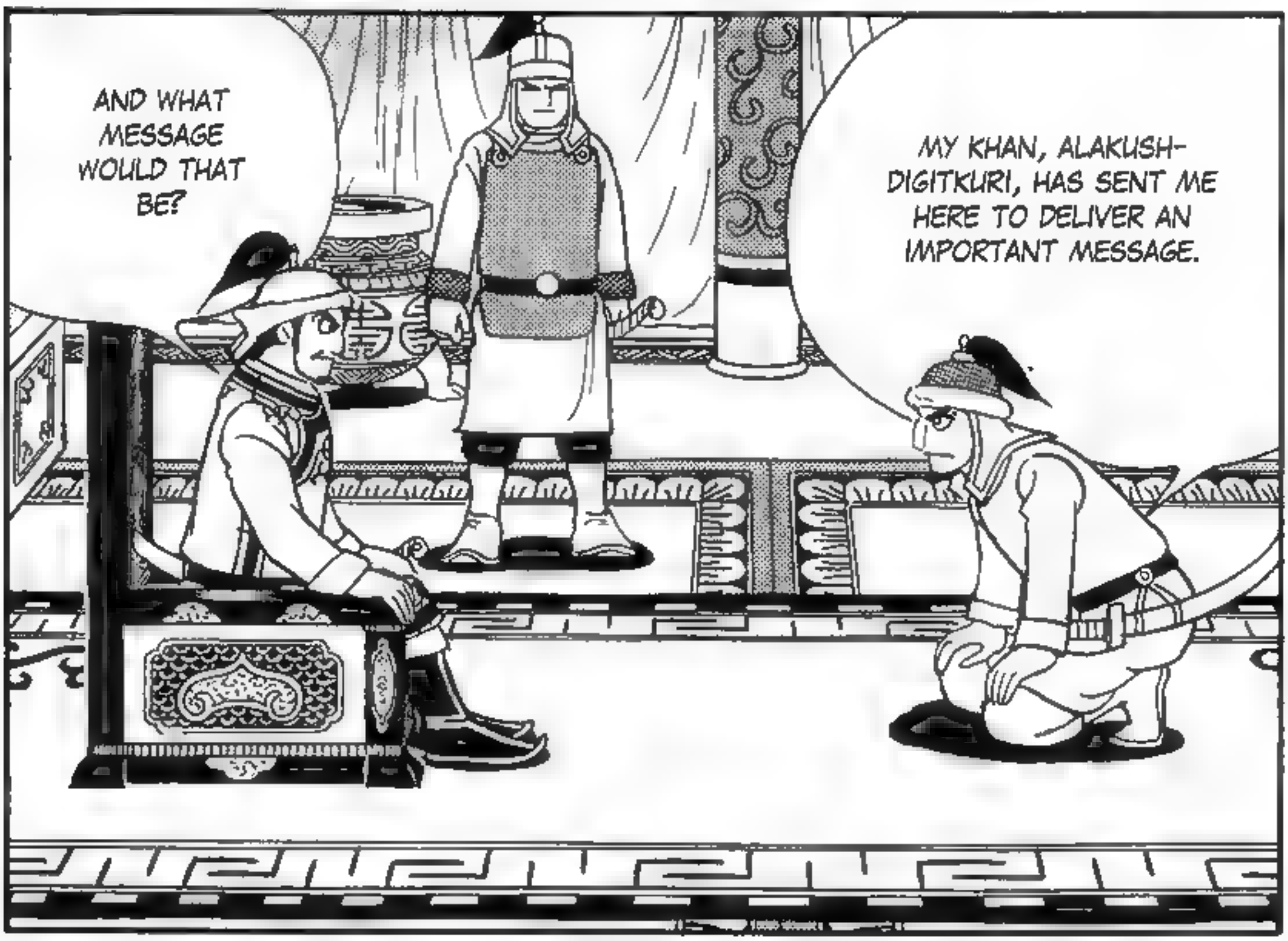



MONGOL
CAMPS




WELCOME. I AM TEMUCHIN KHAN. YOU ARE AN ONGGUT MESSENGER, CORRECT?




AND WHAT MESSAGE WOULD THAT BE?
MY KHAN, ALAKUSH-DIGITKURI, HAS SENT ME HERE TO DELIVER AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE.

THE NAIMANS, IN THEIR ATTEMPTS TO CONSPIRE YOUR DOWNFALL, HAVE SENT US A MESSENGER, ASKING FOR OUR COOPERATION IN A FUTURE ATTACK.

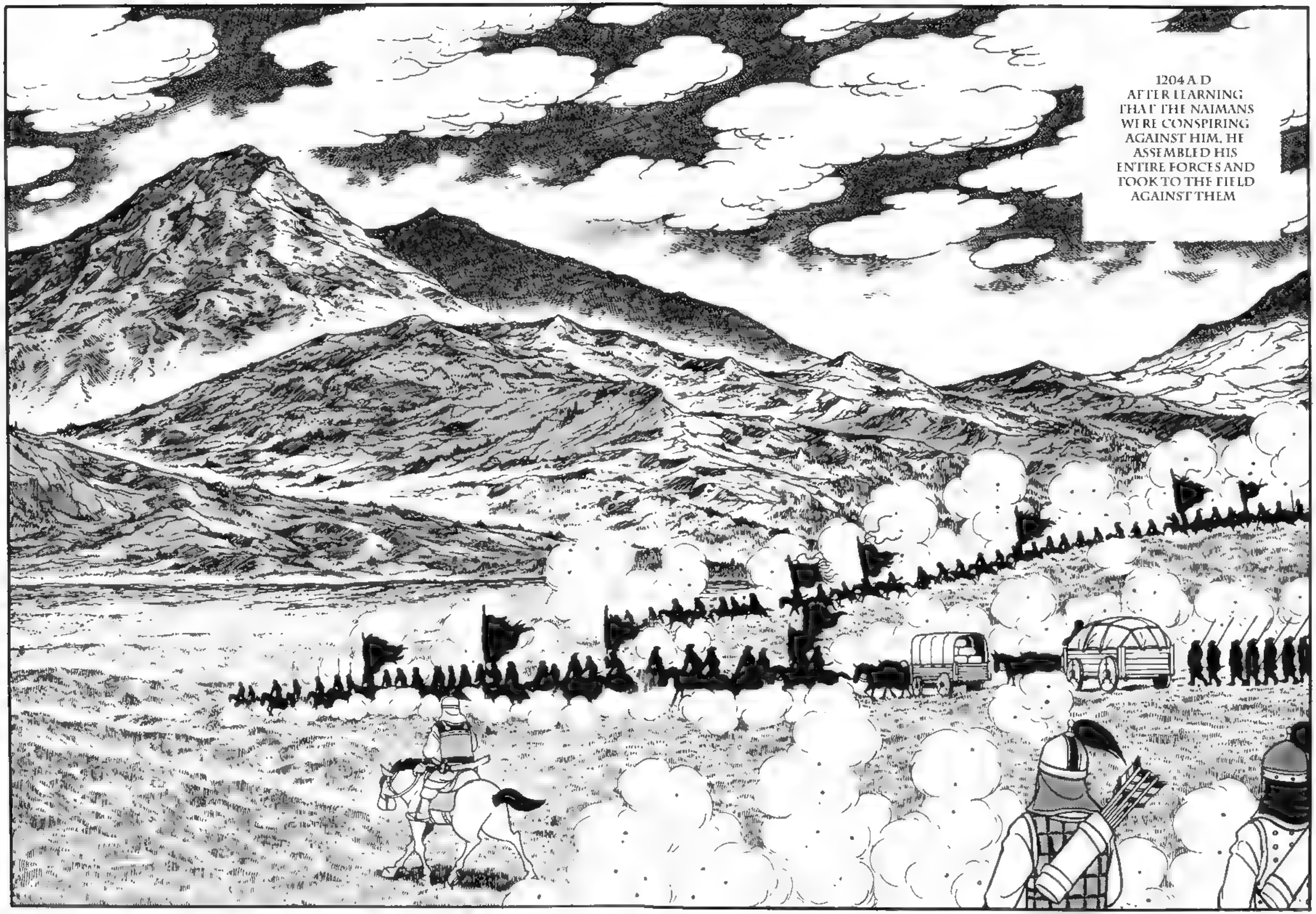
I SEE, SO THE NAIMANS ARE MOVING AGAINST ME...

MY KHAN HAS DIPLOMATICALLY REFUSED THE OFFER BUT WISHES TO WARN YOU TO BE ON GUARD.

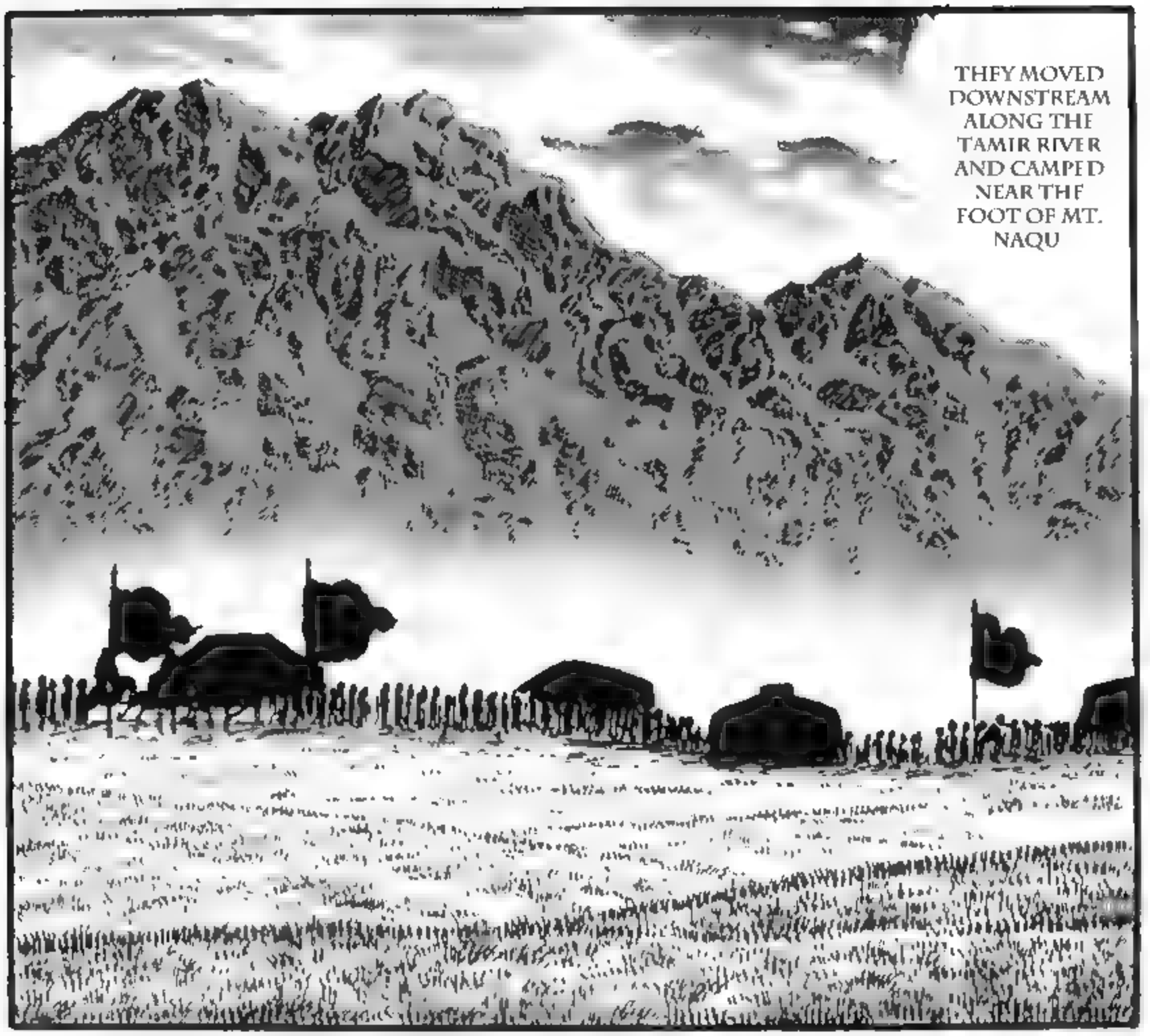
YES.

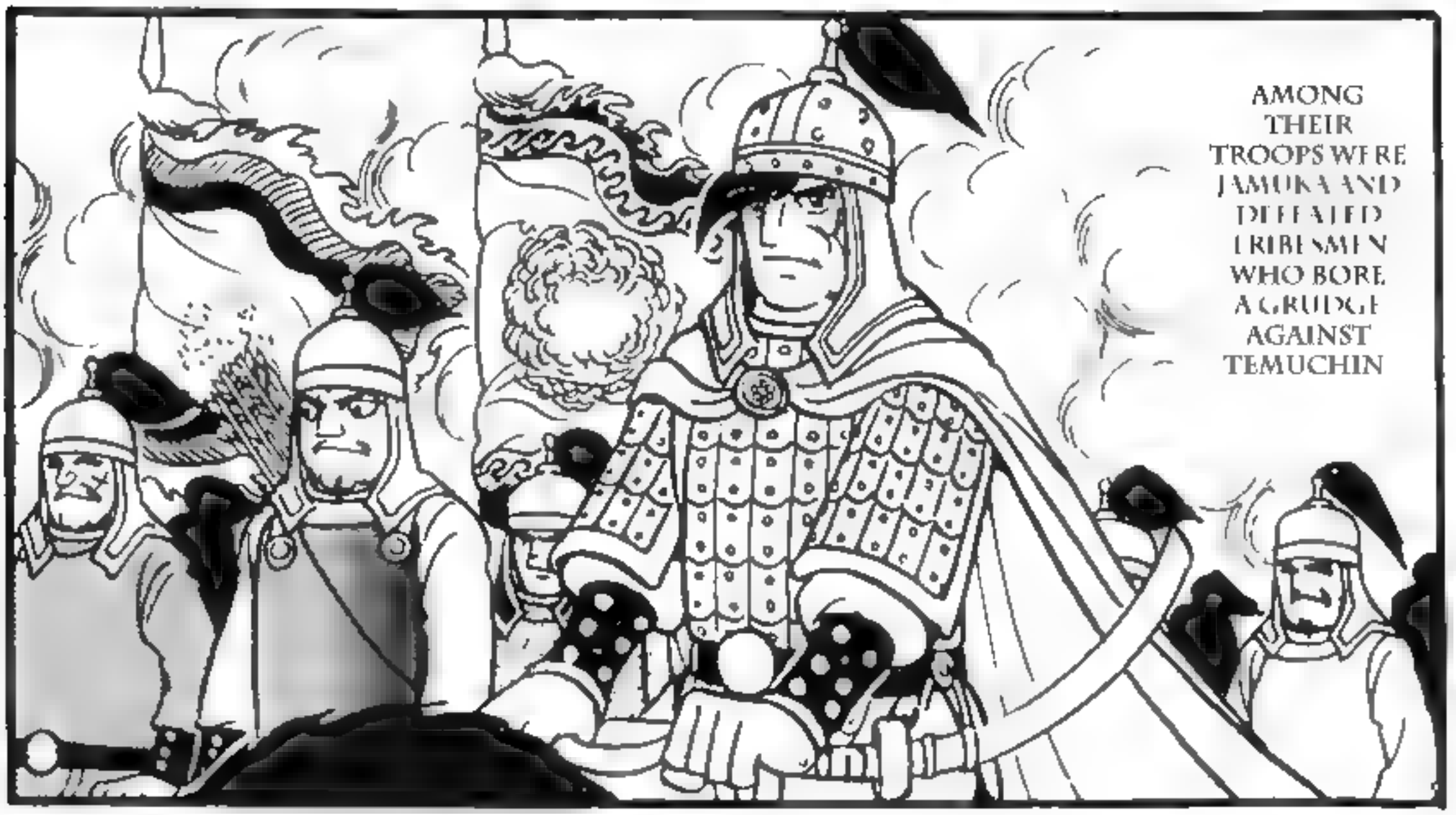
THANK YOU FOR BRINGING THIS TO MY ATTENTION. TELL ALAKUSH THAT TEMUCHIN KHAN DEEPLY APPRECIATES HIS WARNING.

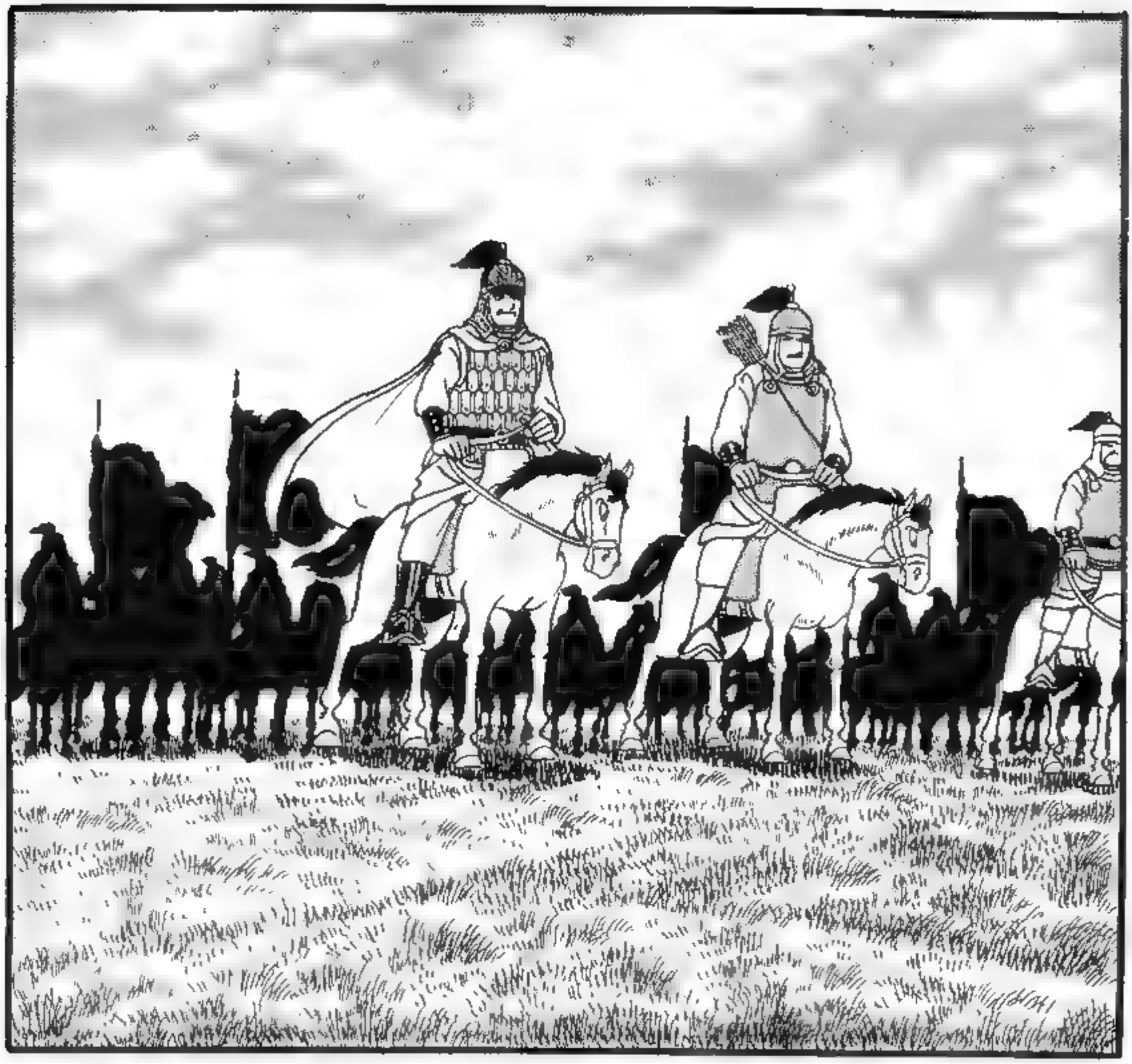
Naiman Conquest


1204 A.D
AFTER LEARNING THAT THE NAIMANS WERE CONSPIRING AGAINST HIM, HE ASSEMBLED HIS ENTIRE FORCES AND TOOK TO THE FIELD AGAINST THEM

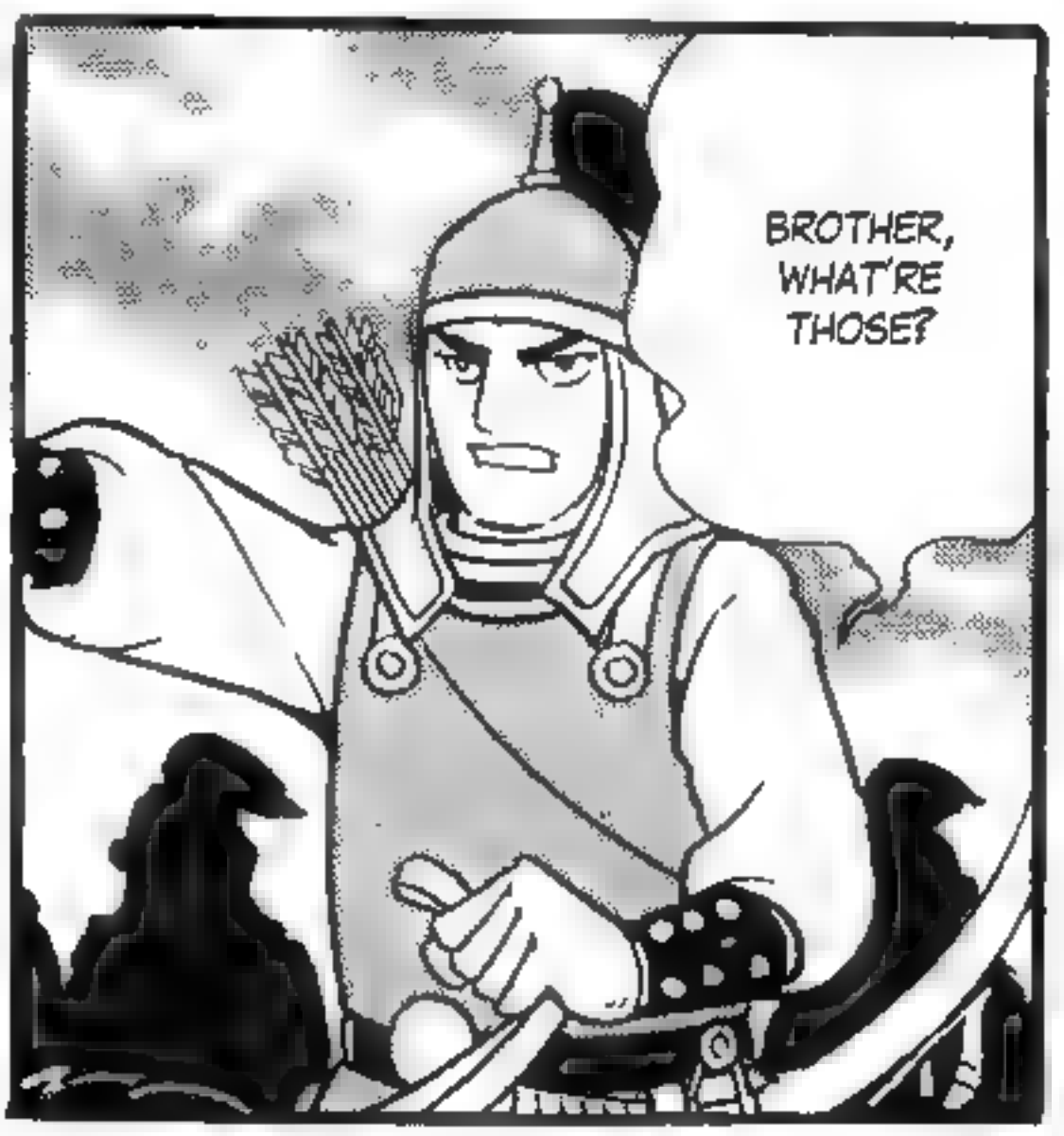
TAYANG KHAN, IN TURN, DECIDED TO MARCH OUT AS WELL WITH HIS TROOPS UPON LEARNING ABOUT THE MONGOL ADVANCE.

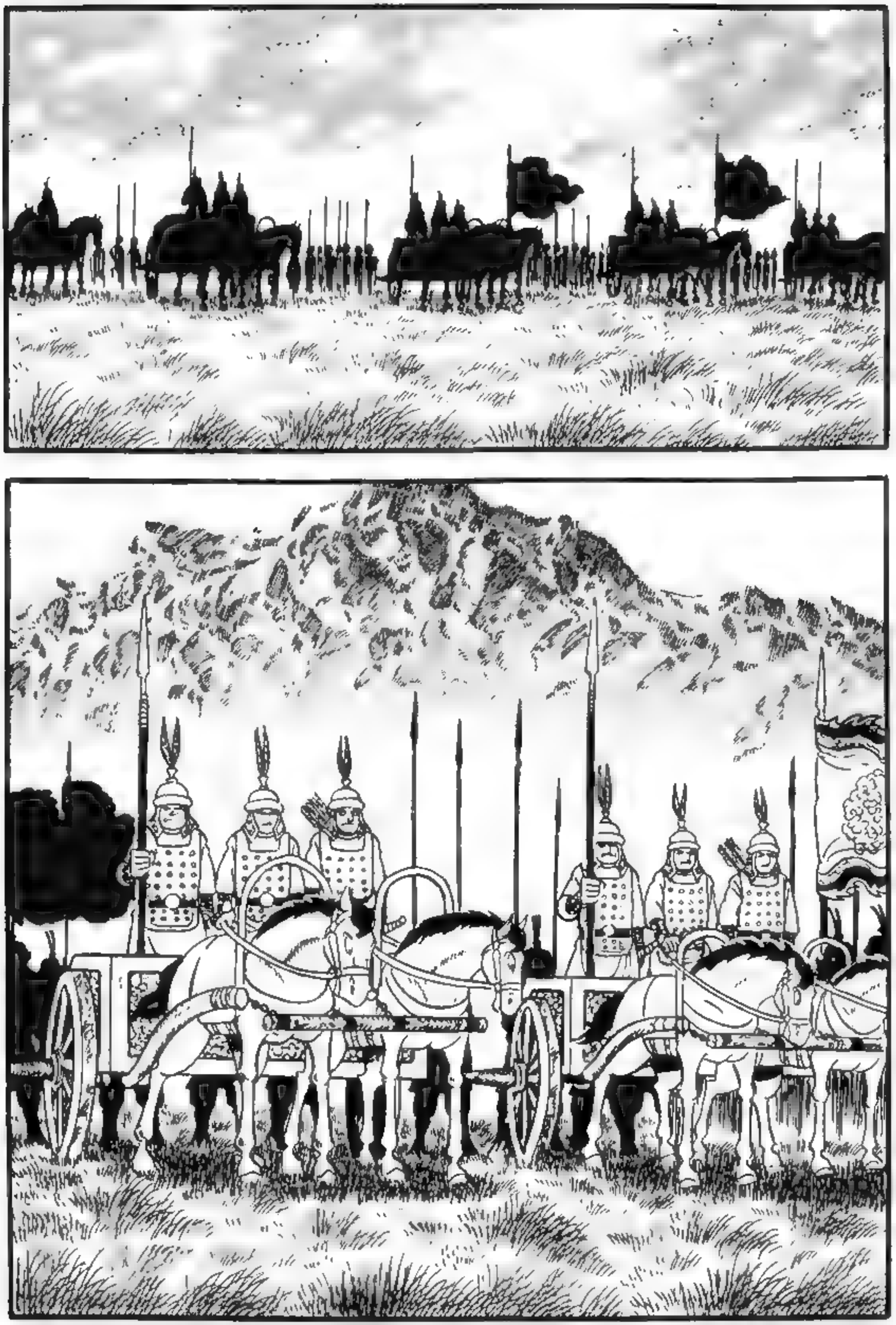

THEY MOVED DOWNSTREAM ALONG THE TAMIR RIVER AND CAMPED NEAR THE FOOT OF MT. NAQU


AMONG THEIR TROOPS WERE JAMUKA AND DEFEATED TRIBESMEN WHO BORE A GRUDGE AGAINST TEMUCHIN



THEY SEEM TO BE WAR CHARIOTS.


BROTHER, WHAT'RE THOSE?



YES...

WELL, WHATEVER THEY ARE, THEY'RE EACH EQUIPPED WITH LANCERS AND ARCHERS.

ME?

KASAR, I'LL LEAVE THE COMMAND OF OUR MAIN BODY OF TROOPS TO YOU.

KASAR, DO YOU NOT REMEMBER THE WORDS YOU OFTEN TELL ME?

BUT I'VE NEVER DEALT WITH SUCH ODD ENEMIES BEFORE... HOW SHOULD I COUNTER THEM?

"LET OUR TROOPS BE ARRAYED AS WIDE AS THE STEPPE AND MOVE LIKE THE WAVES." ALL WILL BE WELL AS LONG AS WE CAPITALIZE ON OUR STRENGTH, OUR FLUID AND RAPID MANEUVER.

I WILL LEAD A REGIMENT INTO THE ENEMY'S FLANK.

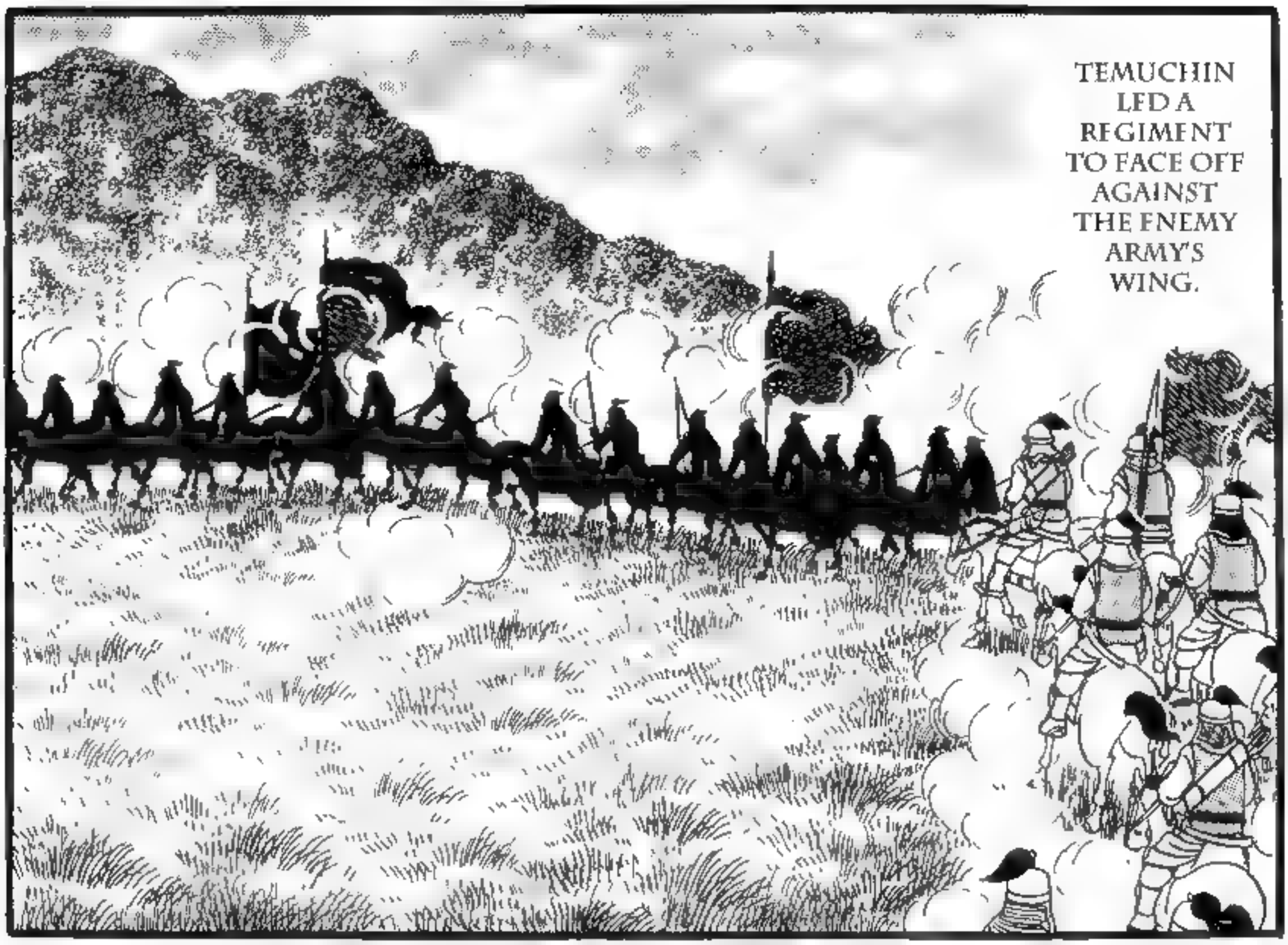
AND WHAT WILL YOU DO?

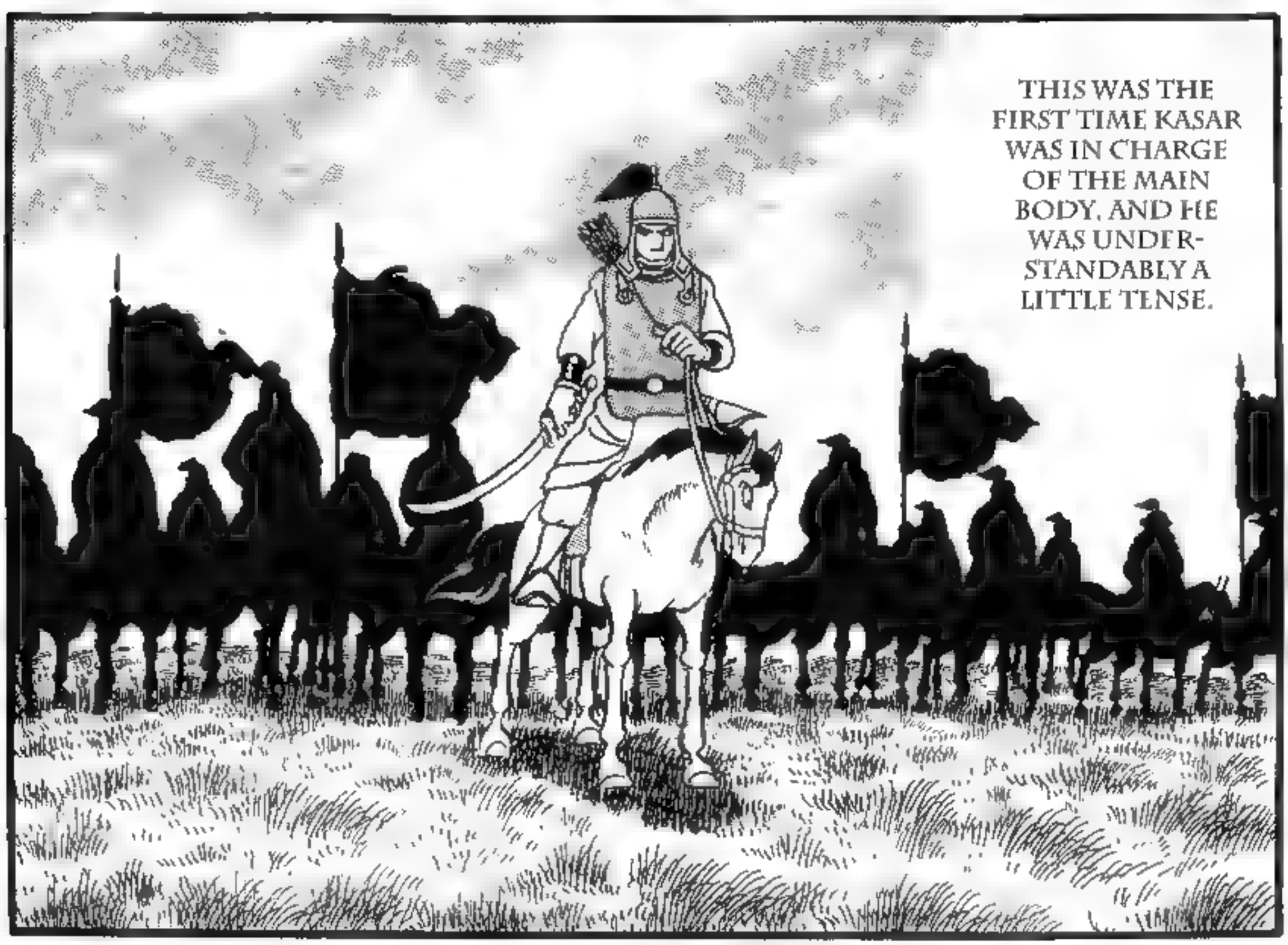
UNDERSTOOD.

OUTFLANK, SURROUND, AND OVERWHELM. THAT IS OUR STRATEGY.

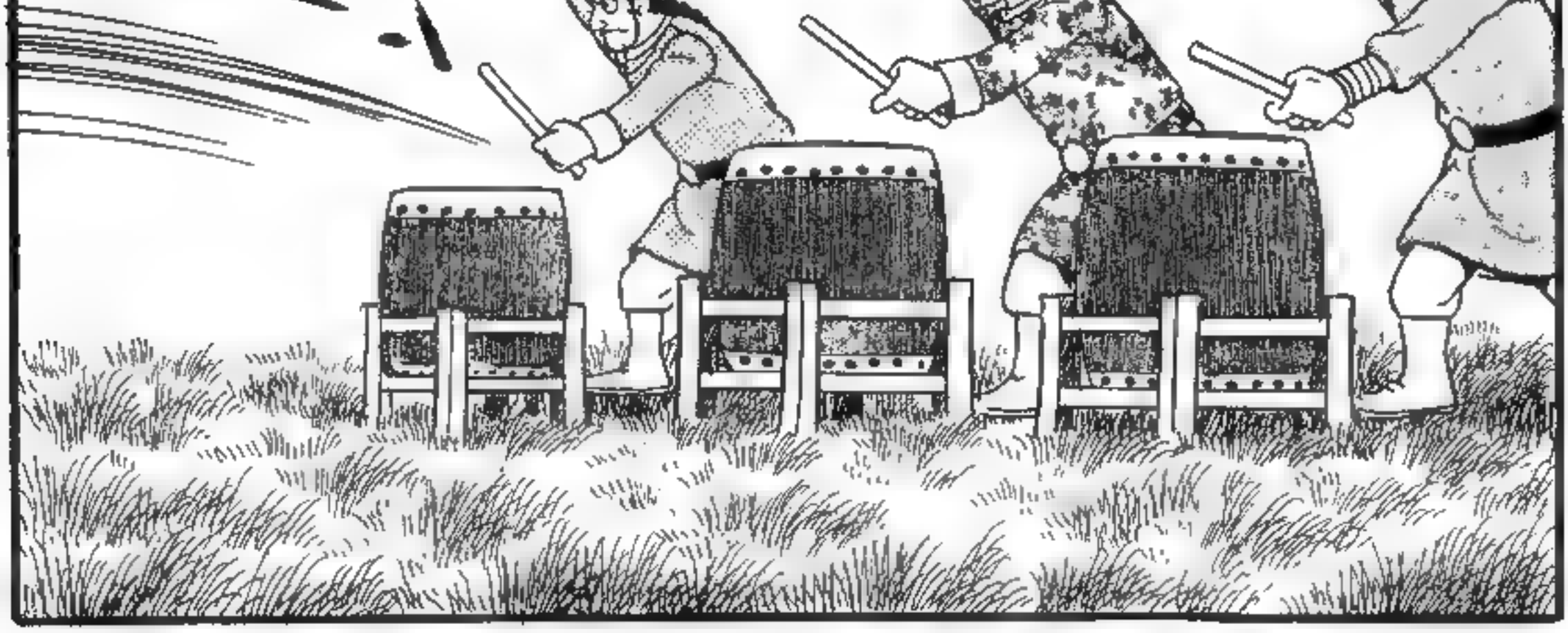
YES.

THEN I'LL LEAVE THE CENTER TO YOU. COORDINATE OUR MOVEMENTS TO THE SIGNAL ONCE THE BATTLE COMMENCES.


TEMUCHIN LED A REGIMENT TO FACE OFF AGAINST THE ENEMY ARMY'S WING.

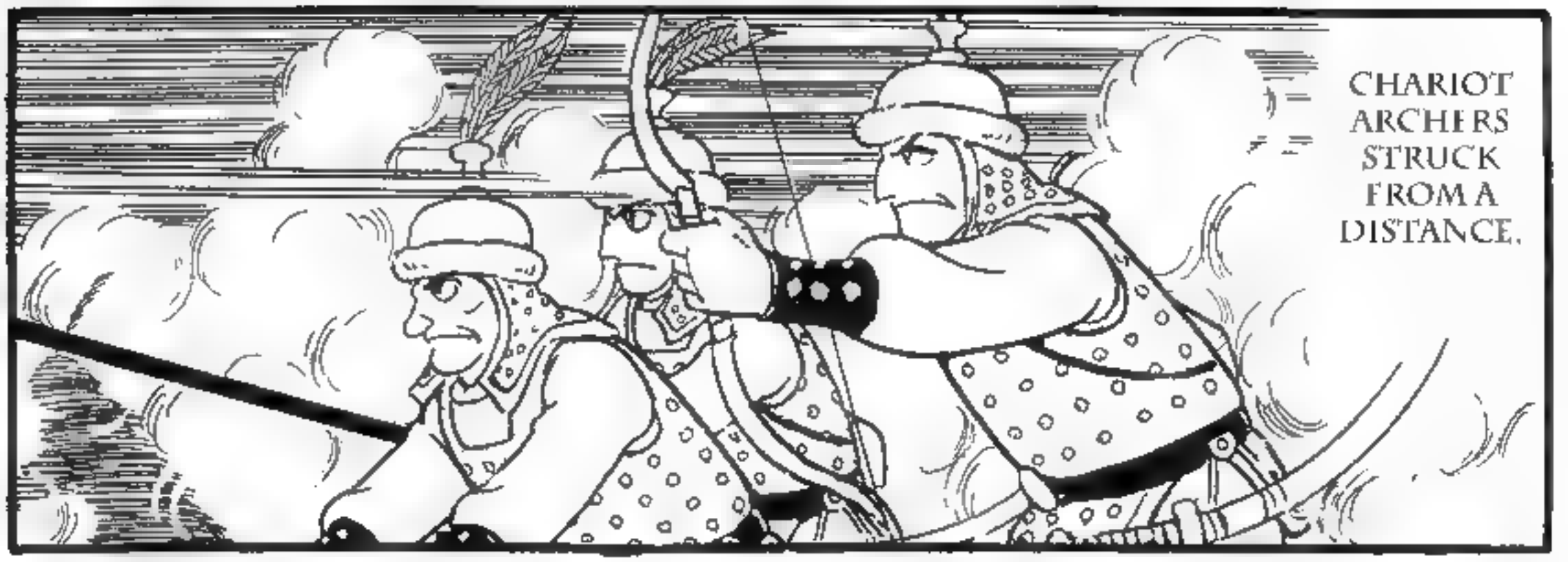

THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME KASAR WAS IN CHARGE OF THE MAIN BODY, AND HE WAS UNDER-STANDABLY A LITTLE TENSE.

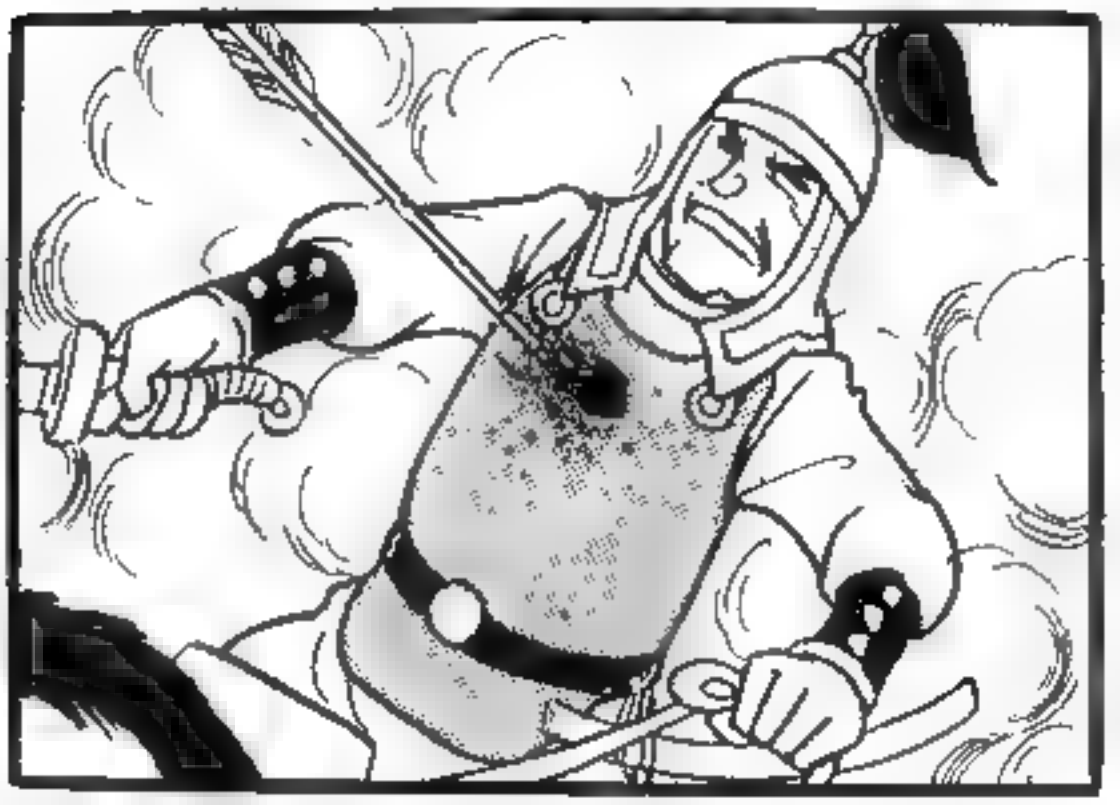
YES, KHAN.
GIVE THE SIGNAL TO BEGIN BATTLE!

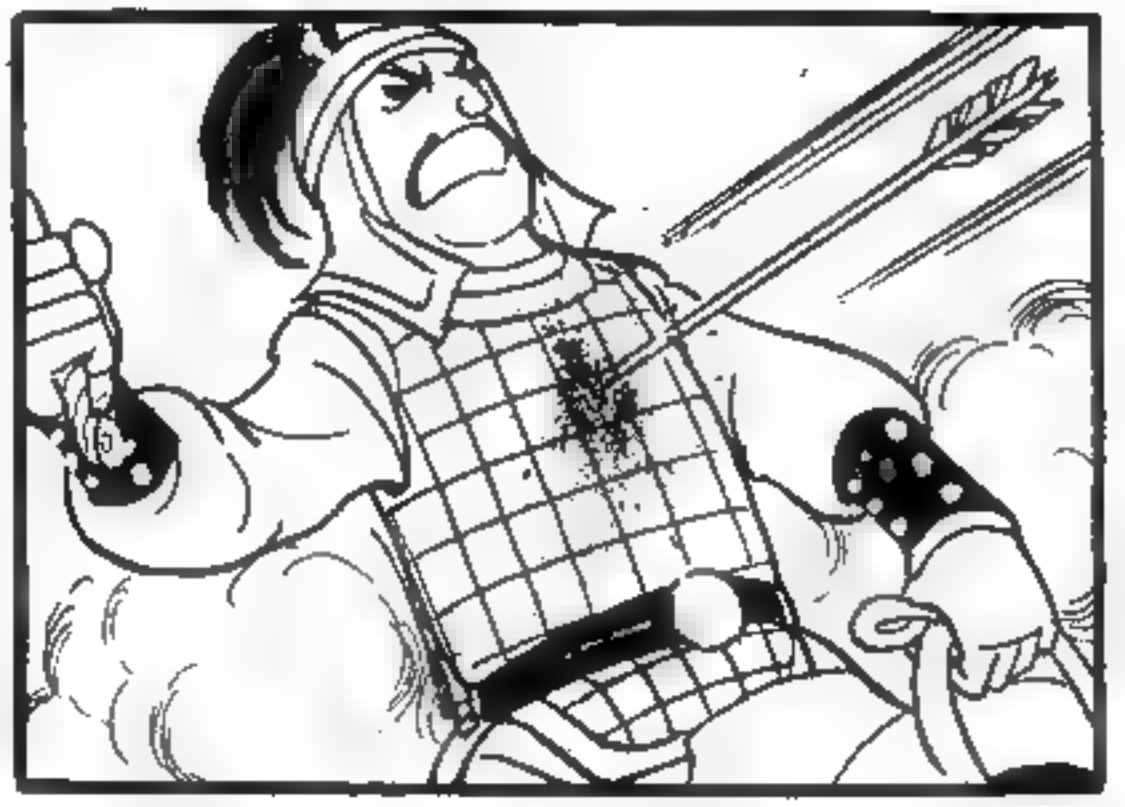


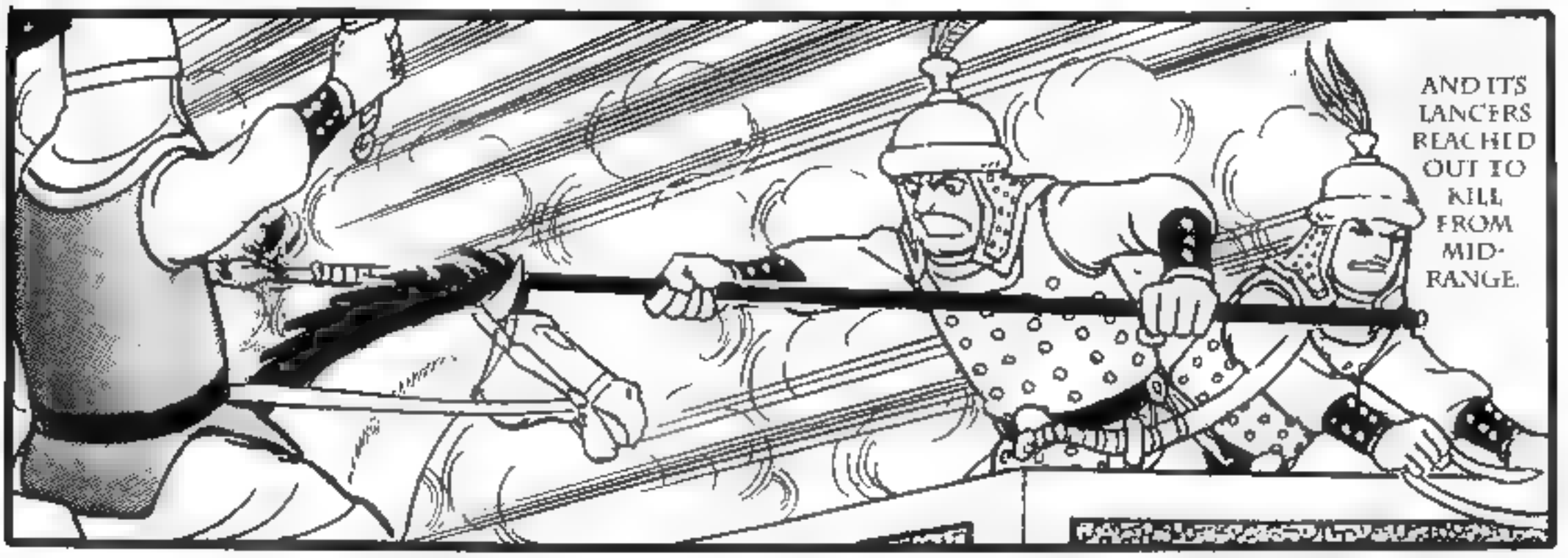
ATTACK!

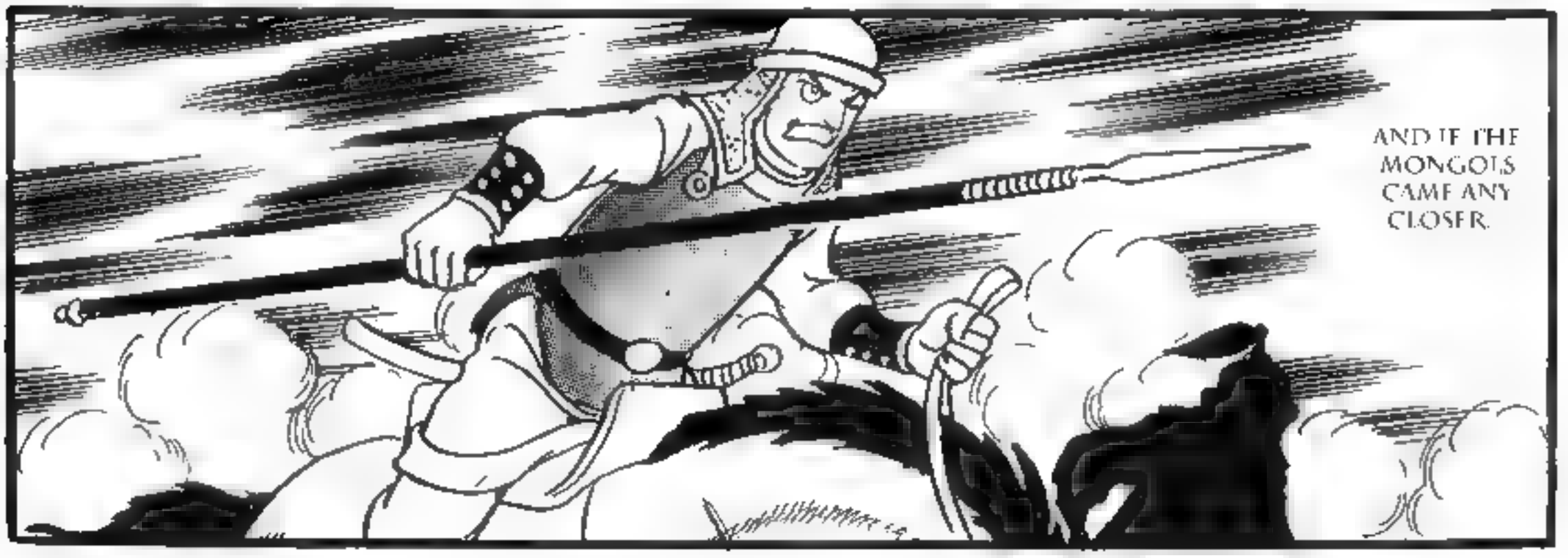
THE NAIMAN CHARIOTS LED THE FRONTLINE CHARGE

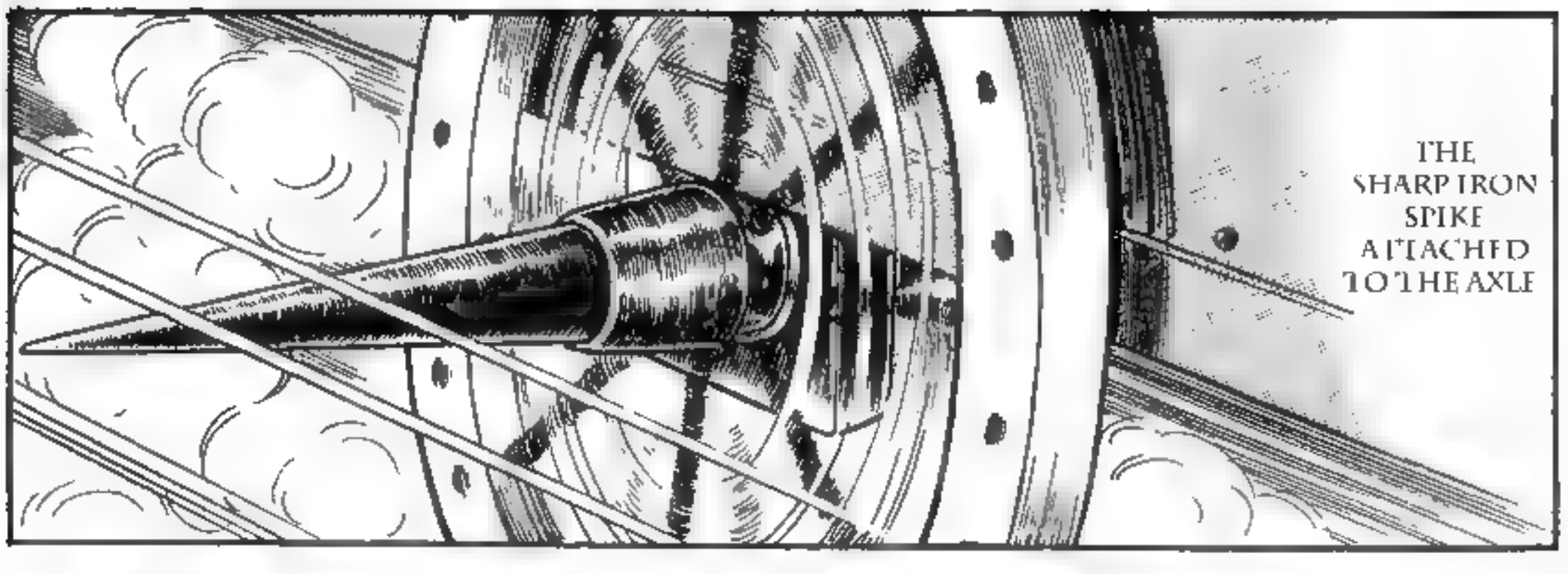

CHARIOT ARCHERS STRUCK FROM A DISTANCE.

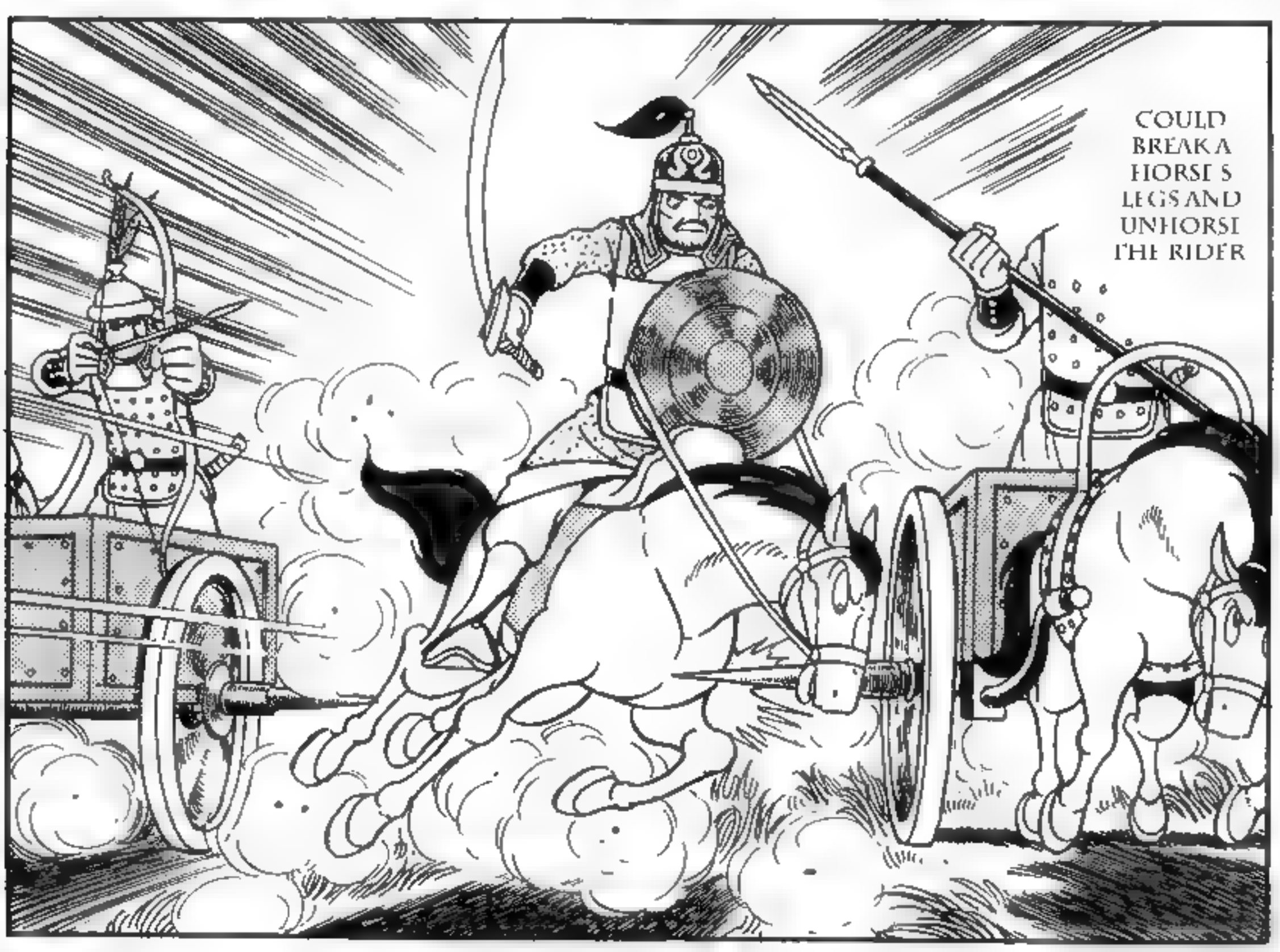


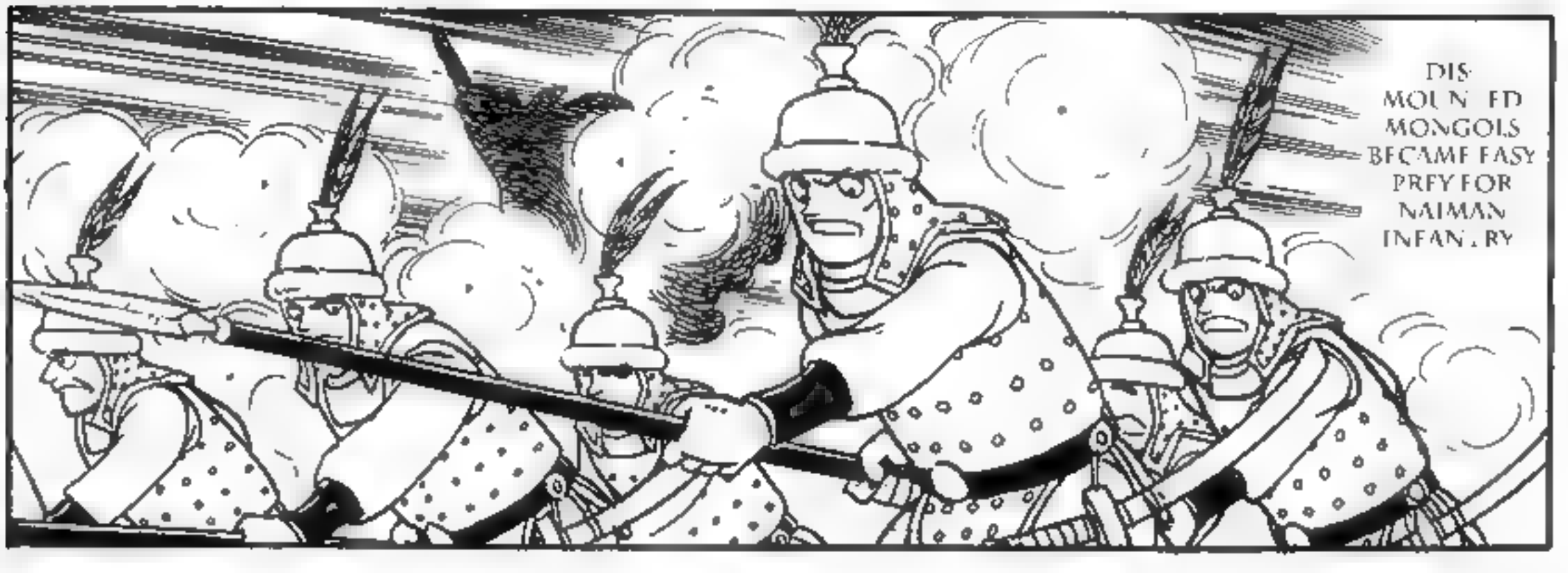


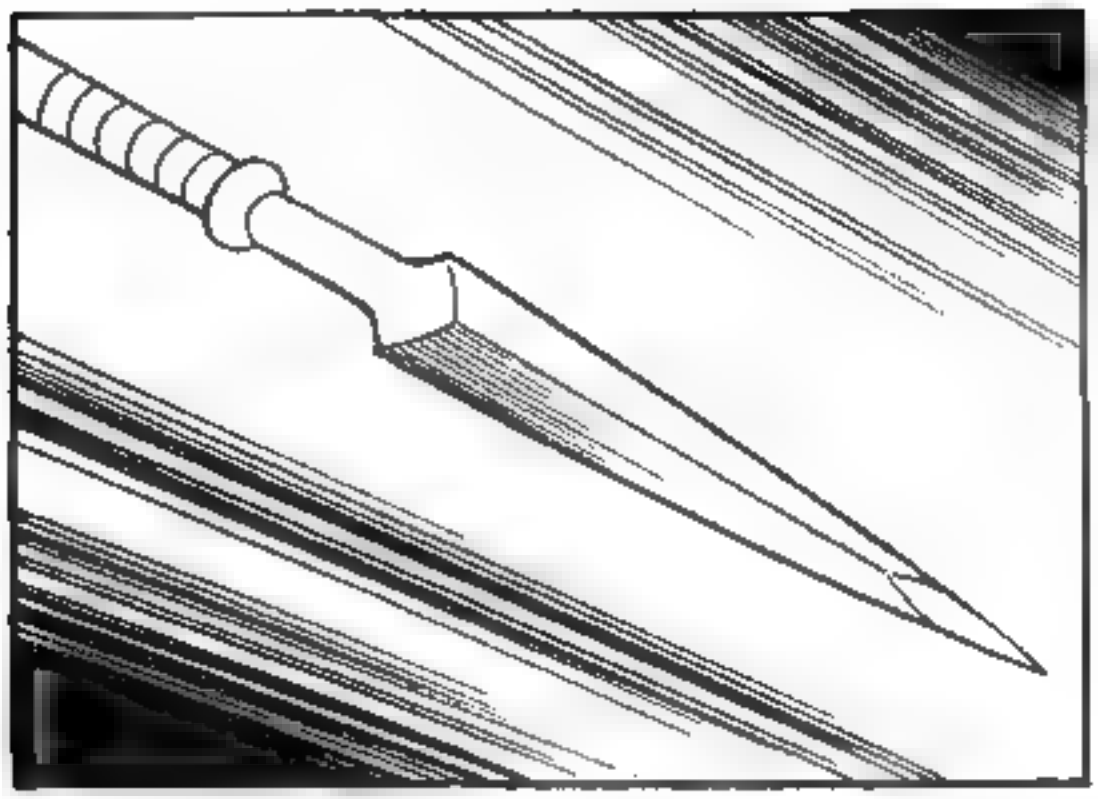

AND ITS LANCERS REACHED OUT TO KILL FROM MID-RANGE.

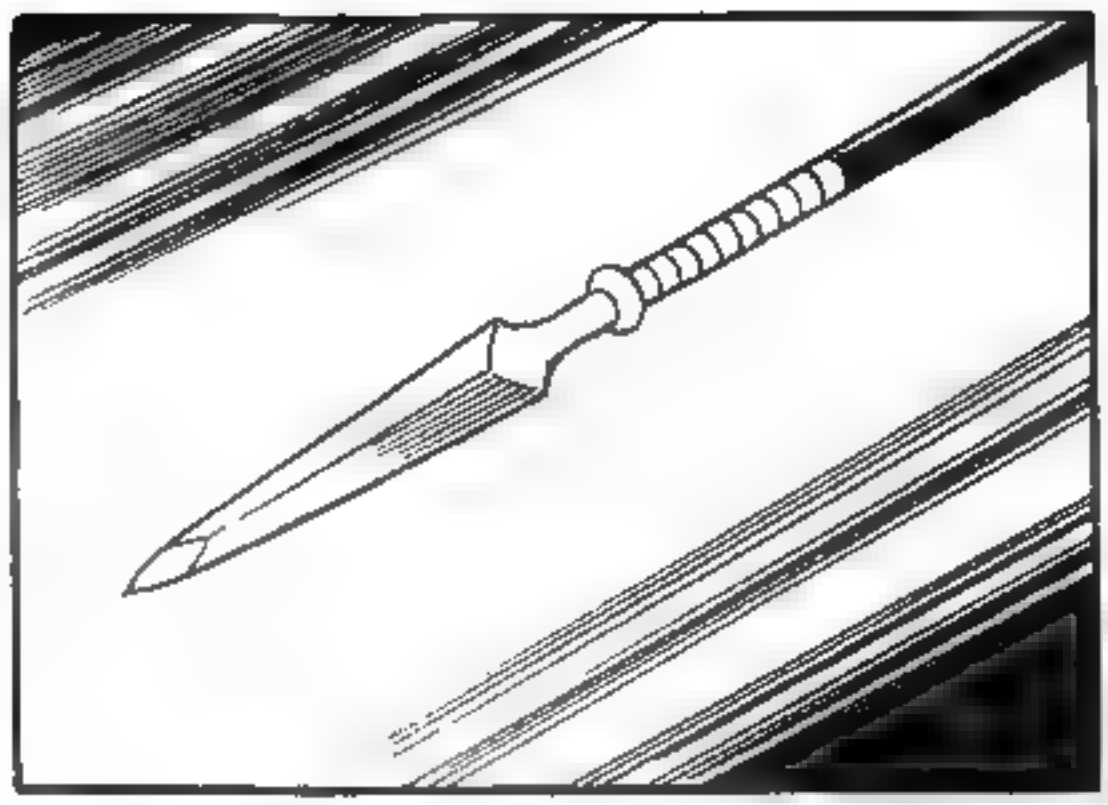

AND IF THE MONGOLS CAME ANY CLOSER.


THE SHARP IRON SPIKE ATTACHED TO THE AXLE


COULD BREAK A HORSE'S LEGS AND UNHORSE THE RIDER


DISMOUNTED MONGOLS BECAME EASY PREY FOR NAIMAN INFANTRY



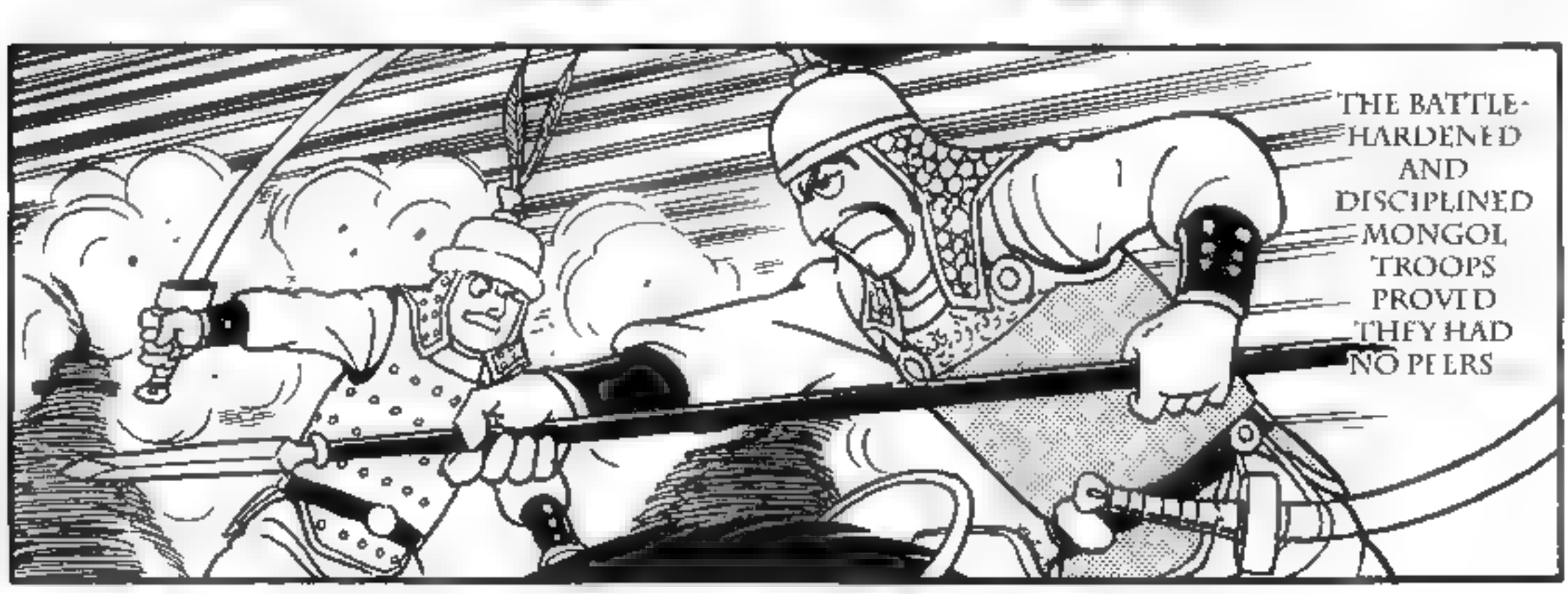


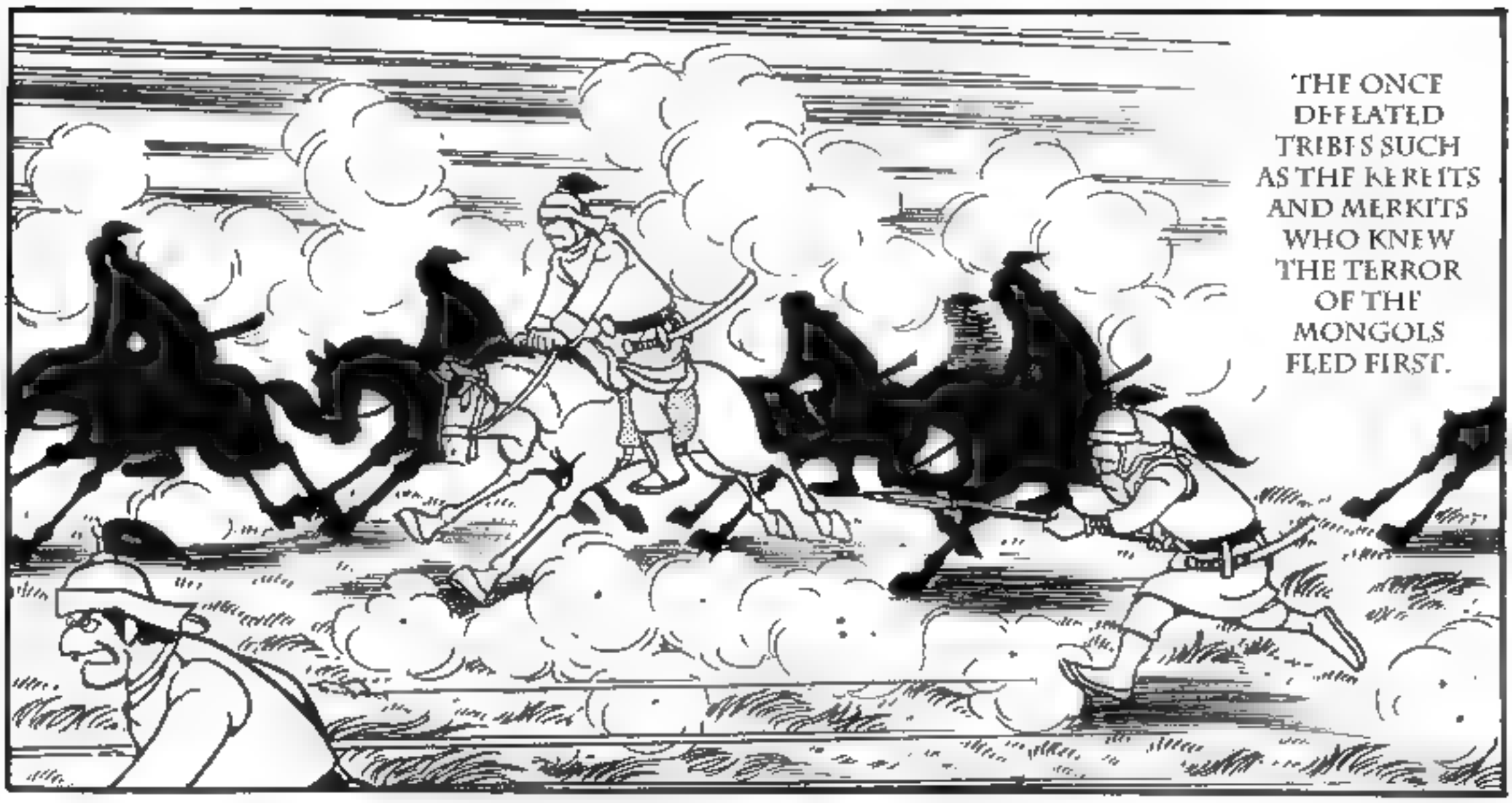
DO NOT LOSE HEART NOR SHOW YOUR BACKS TO THE ENEMY! SHOW THESE DOGS THAT YOU'RE DESCENDED FROM WOLVES!

THE FIELD
ERUPTED
INTO A CHAOS
OF IRON,
BLOOD, AND
DUST.

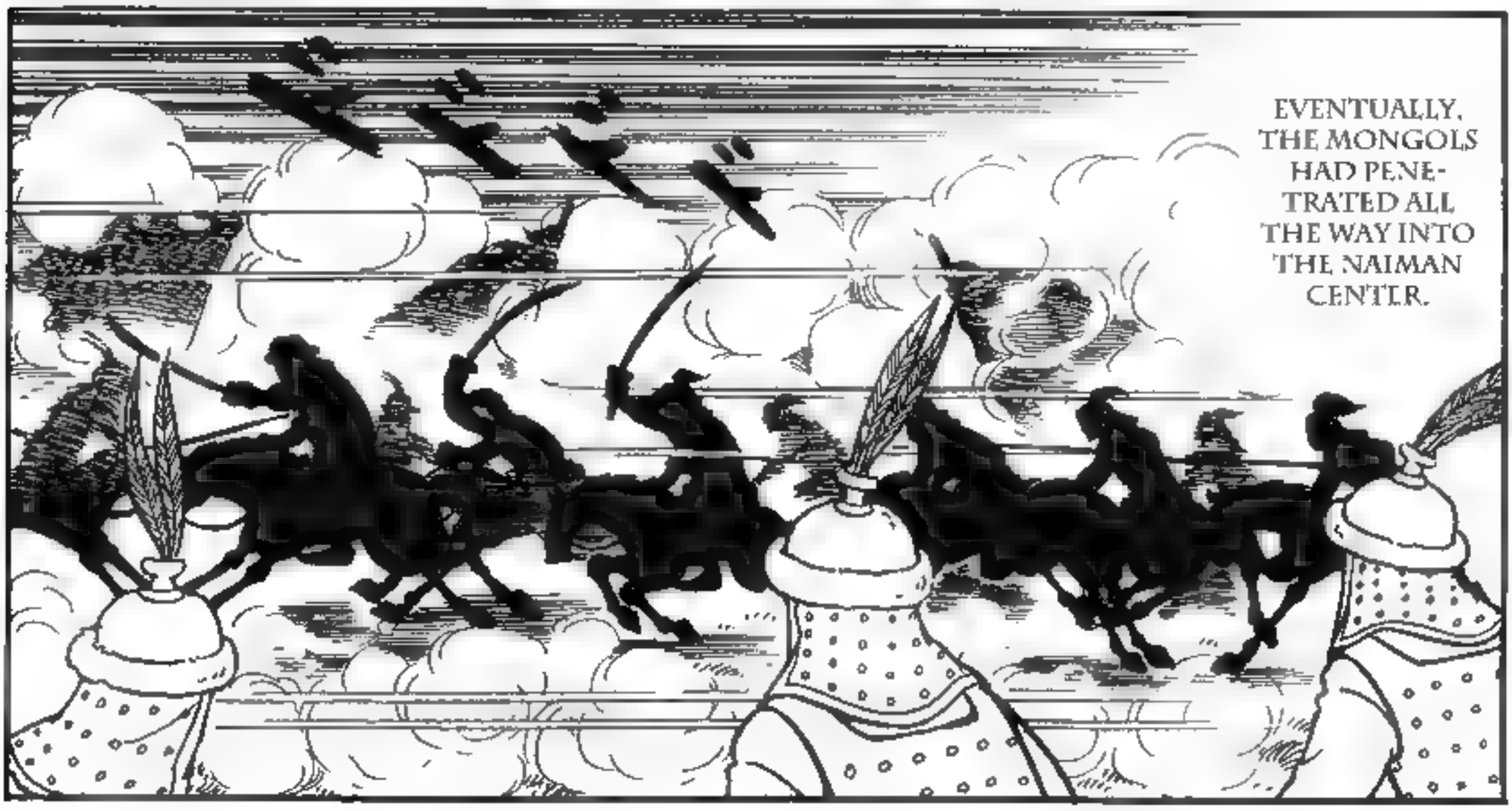
MEANWHILE, TEMUCHIN WAS BUSY ENGAGING THE NAIMAN WING

AS THE BATTLE PROGRESSED,


THE BATTLE-HARDENED AND DISCIPLINED MONGOL TROOPS PROVED THEY HAD NO PEERS


THE ONCE DEFEATED TRIBES SUCH AS THE KEREITS AND MERKITS WHO KNEW THE TERROR OF THE MONGOLS FLED FIRST.

JAMUKA, TOO, FLED THE BATTLE WITH SEVERAL OF HIS SUB-ORDINATES.


EVENTUALLY, THE MONGOLS HAD PENE-TRATED ALL THE WAY INTO THE NAIMAN CENTER.

STOP FLEEING, YOU COWARDS!

ヒュン

ヒュン

AHH!

ヒュン

ヒュン

GAHH!

SIR, WE'LL BE WIPED OUT AT THIS RATE!

TAYANG KHAN!

FLEE TO THE HILLS!

AS THE SUN SET,
THE SIGHT OF MASS
CORPSES FROM BOTH
SIDES STREWN ACROSS
THE STEPPE GREW
DIMMER AND DIMMER.

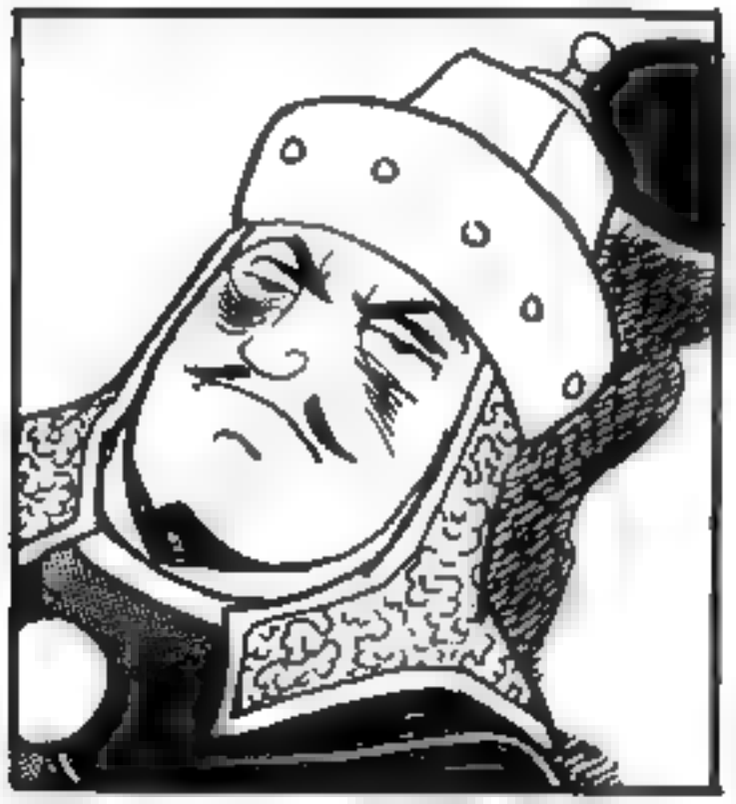
THEY'VE FLED FOR MT. NAQU.

WHERE ARE THE REMAINING NAIMANS?

YES.

SURROUND THE HILLS AND KEEP UP THE PURSUIT. DO NOT LET UP IN THE SLIGHTEST.

MT
NAQU



TAYANG
KHAN!
MY KHAN,
PLEASE REGAIN
CONSCIOUSNESS!

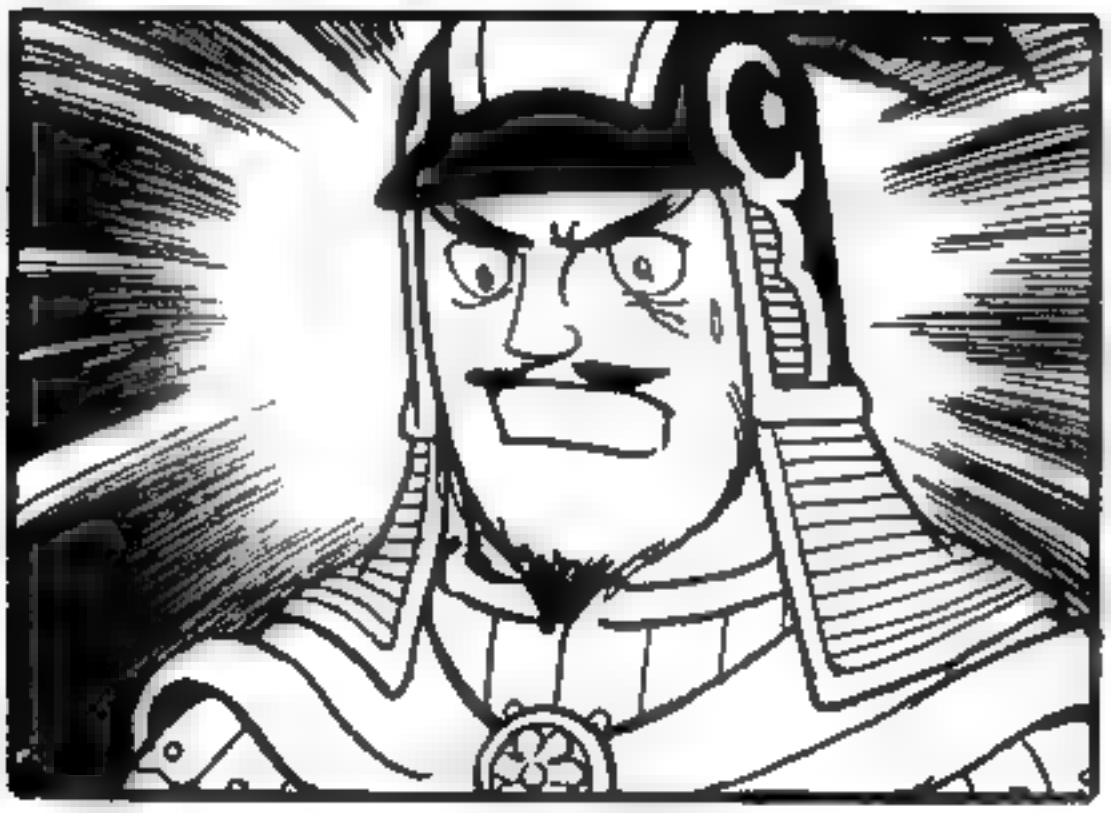
KHAAAN!

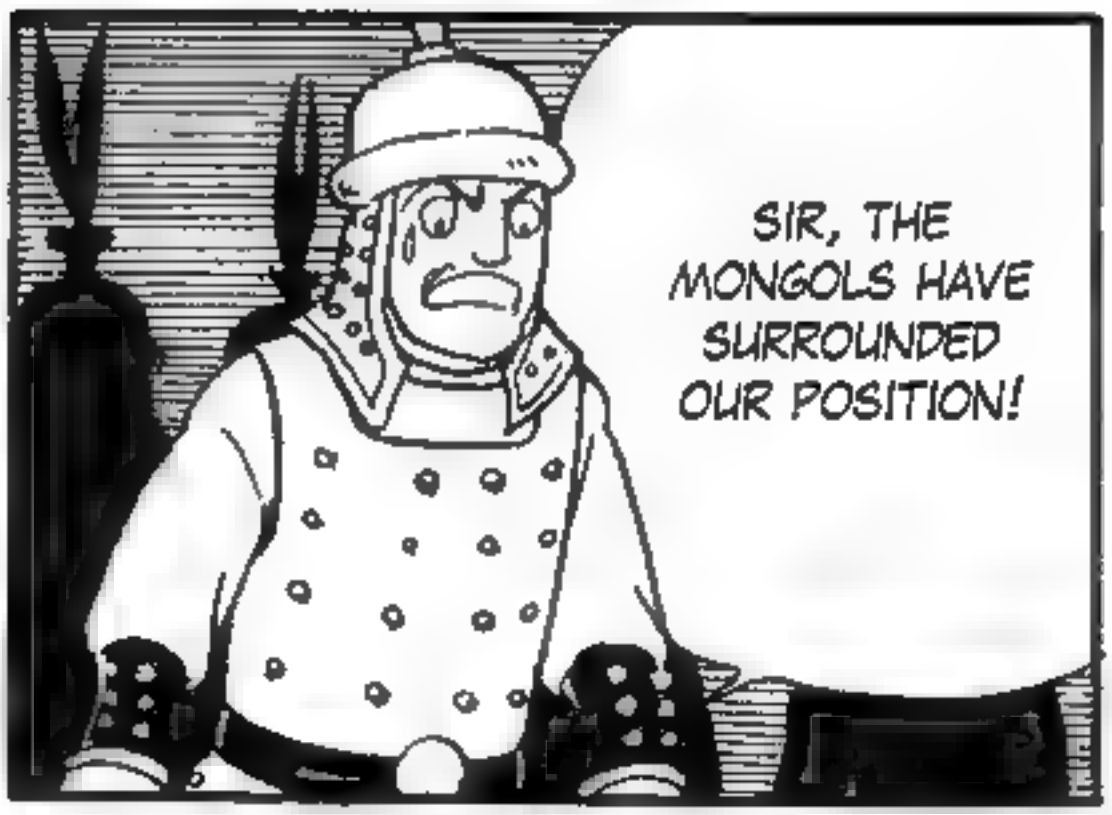
KHAAAN!

WHAT WILL WE DO NOW...?

OUR KHAN HAS PASSED AWAY, SIR.

IF THIS IS TO BE THE DEATH OF THE NAIMANS, THEN LET US AT LEAST DIE A GOOD DEATH!




SIR, THE MONGOLS HAVE SURROUNDED OUR POSITION!

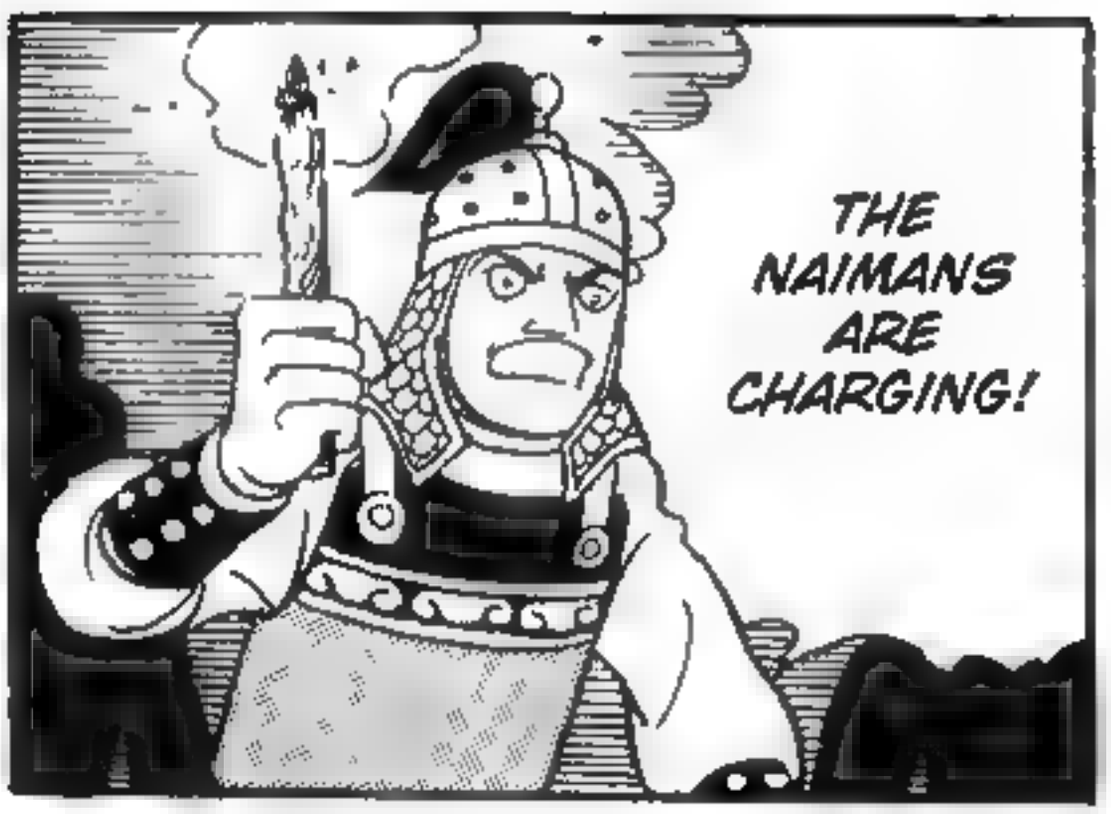
ALL THOSE WHO WISH TO DIE AT LEAST WITH HONOUR, FOLLOW ME!

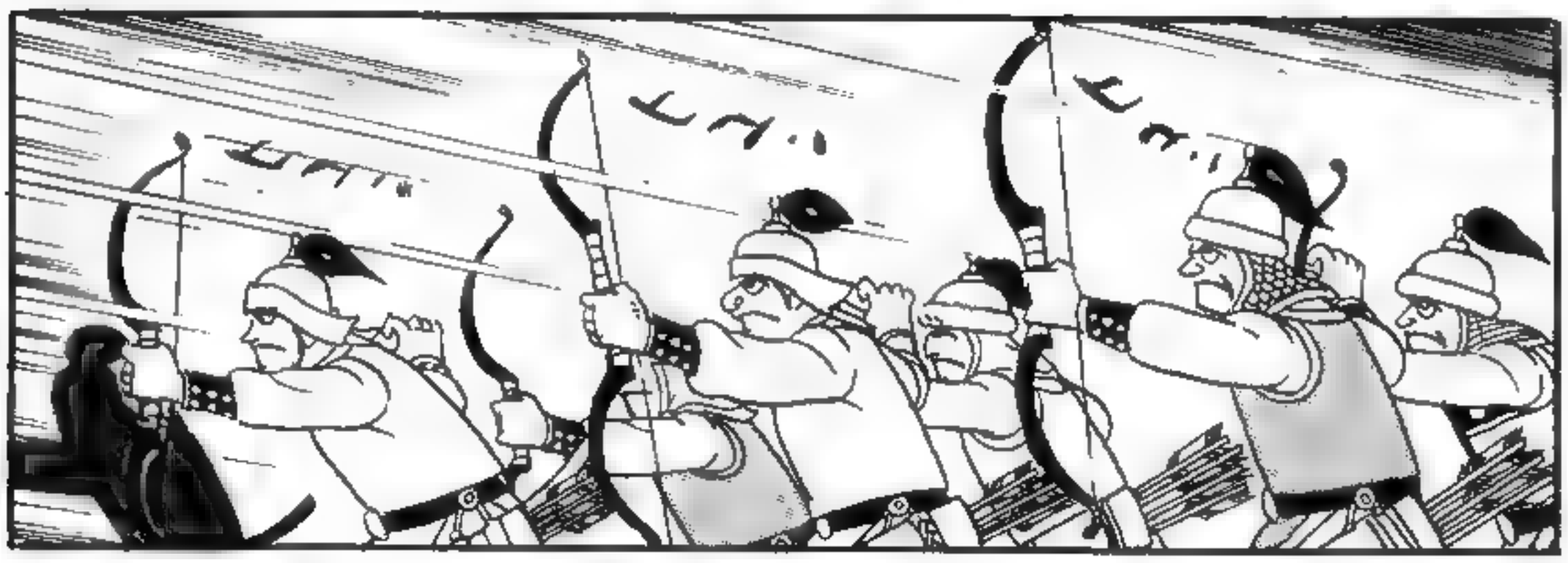
SO THEY'VE ALREADY SURROUNDED US...

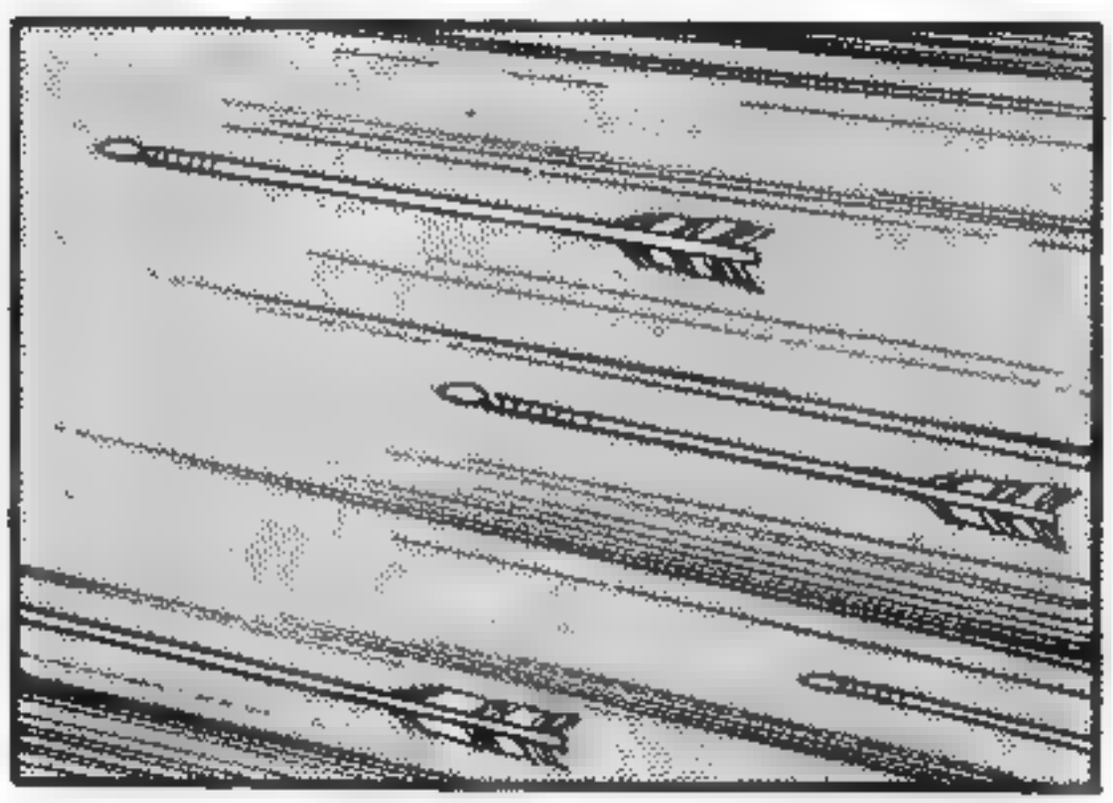
MOVE OUT!

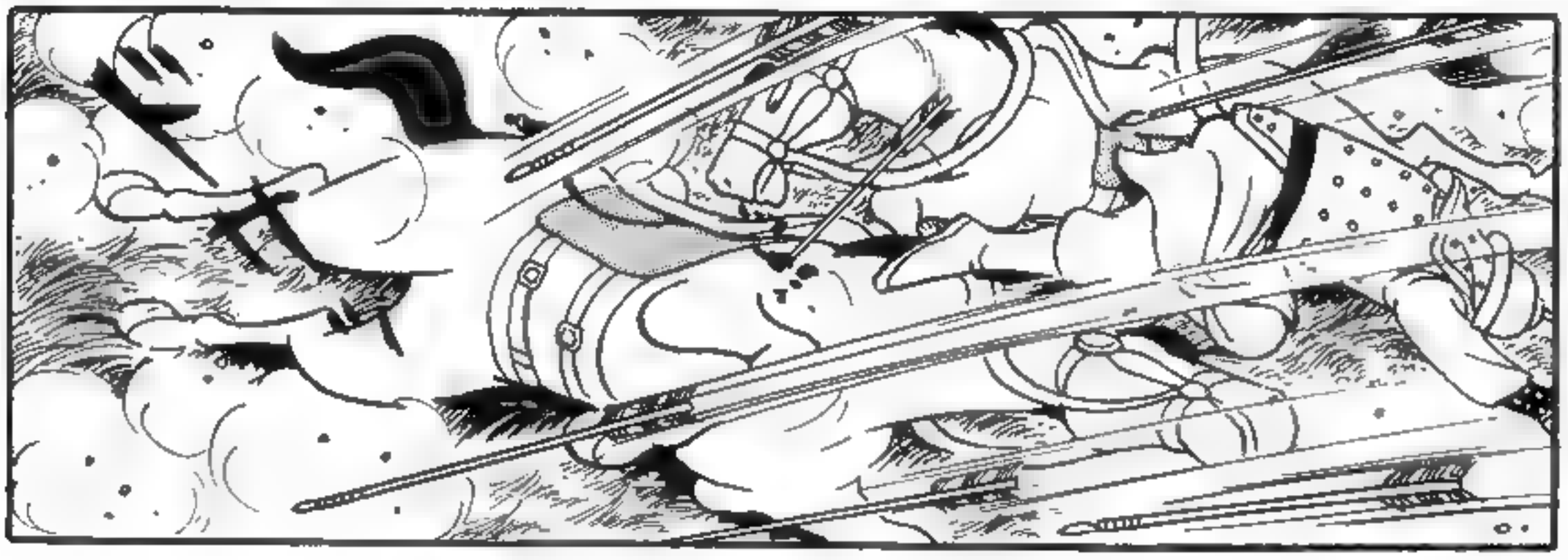
ONLY A THIRD OF THE REMAINING TROOPS FOLLOWED THE NAIMAN GENERAL KHORI SÜBECHI.

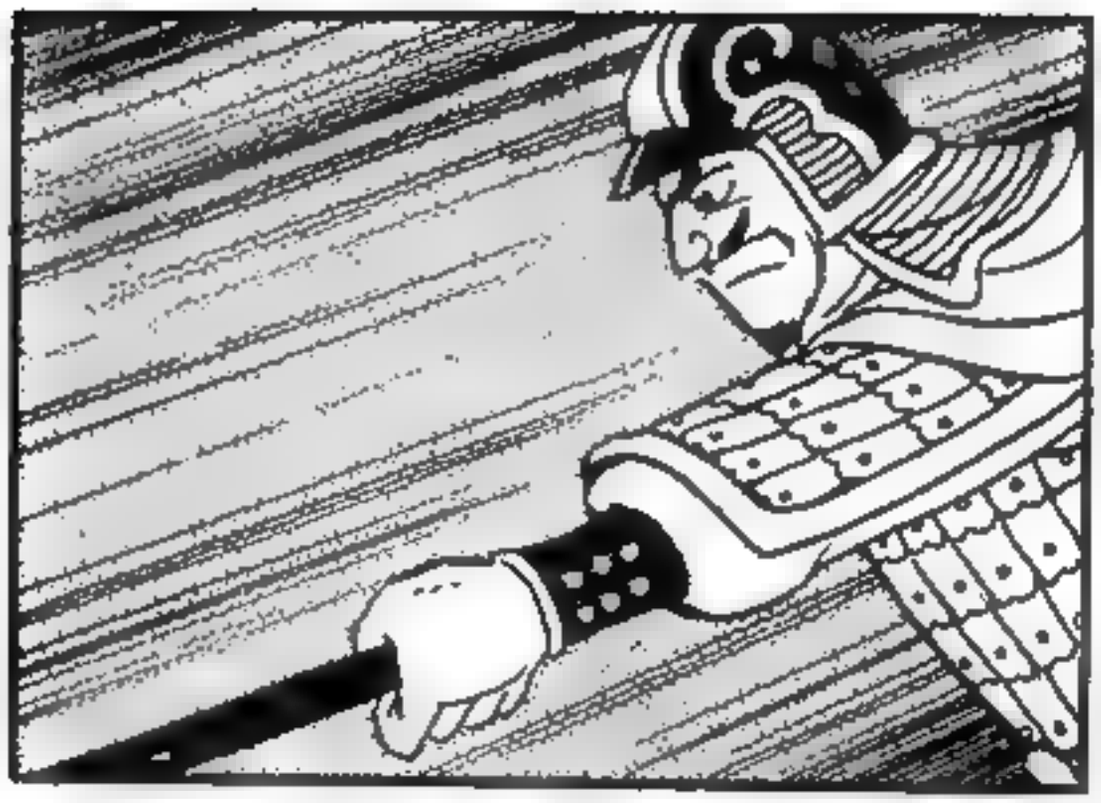
ARCHERS!

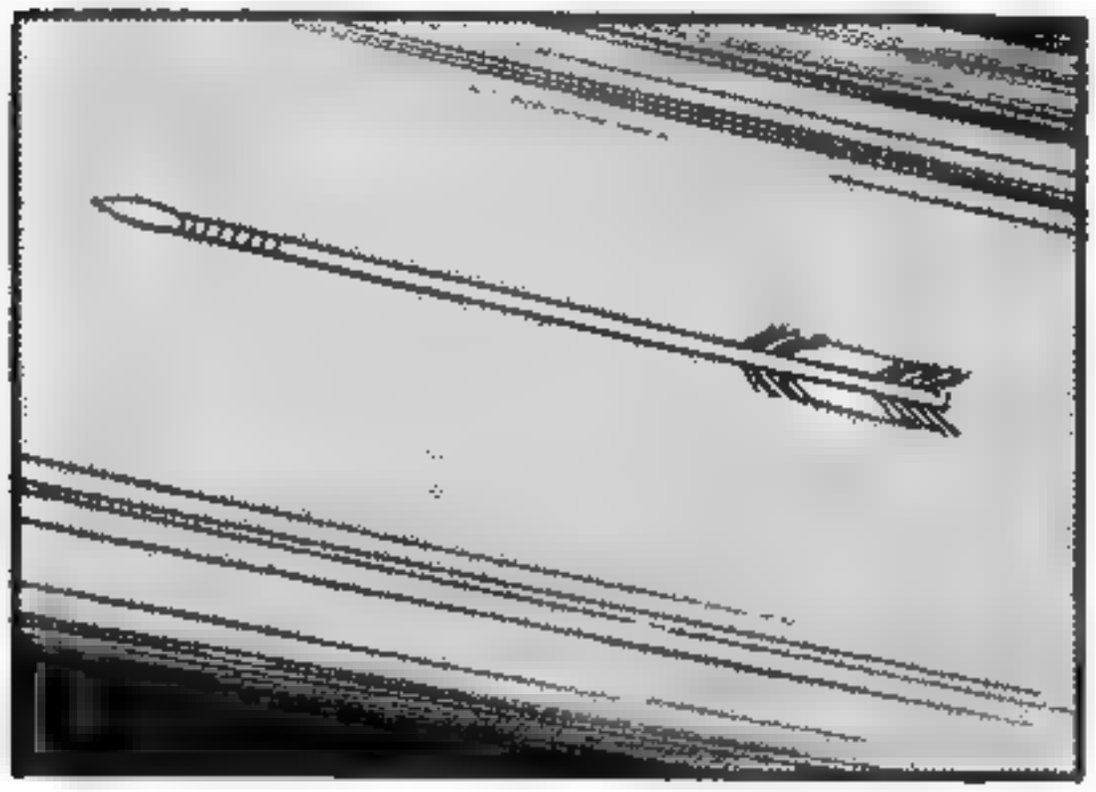

THE NAIMANS ARE CHARGING!

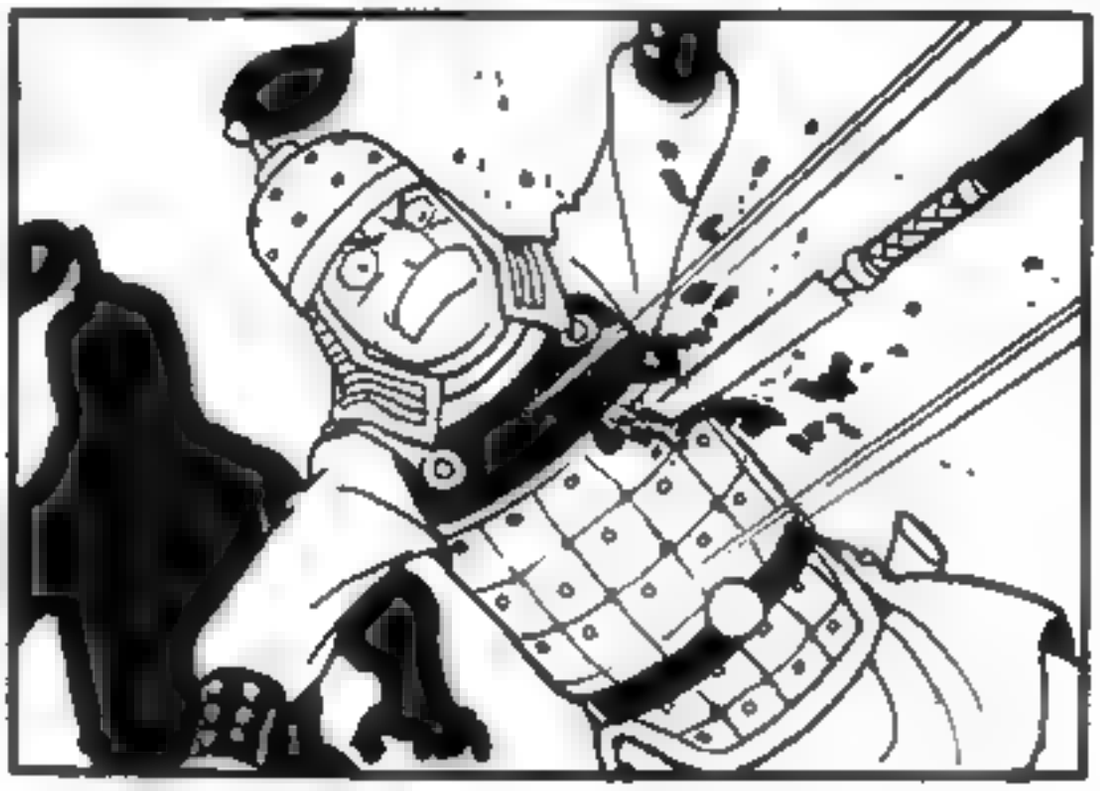




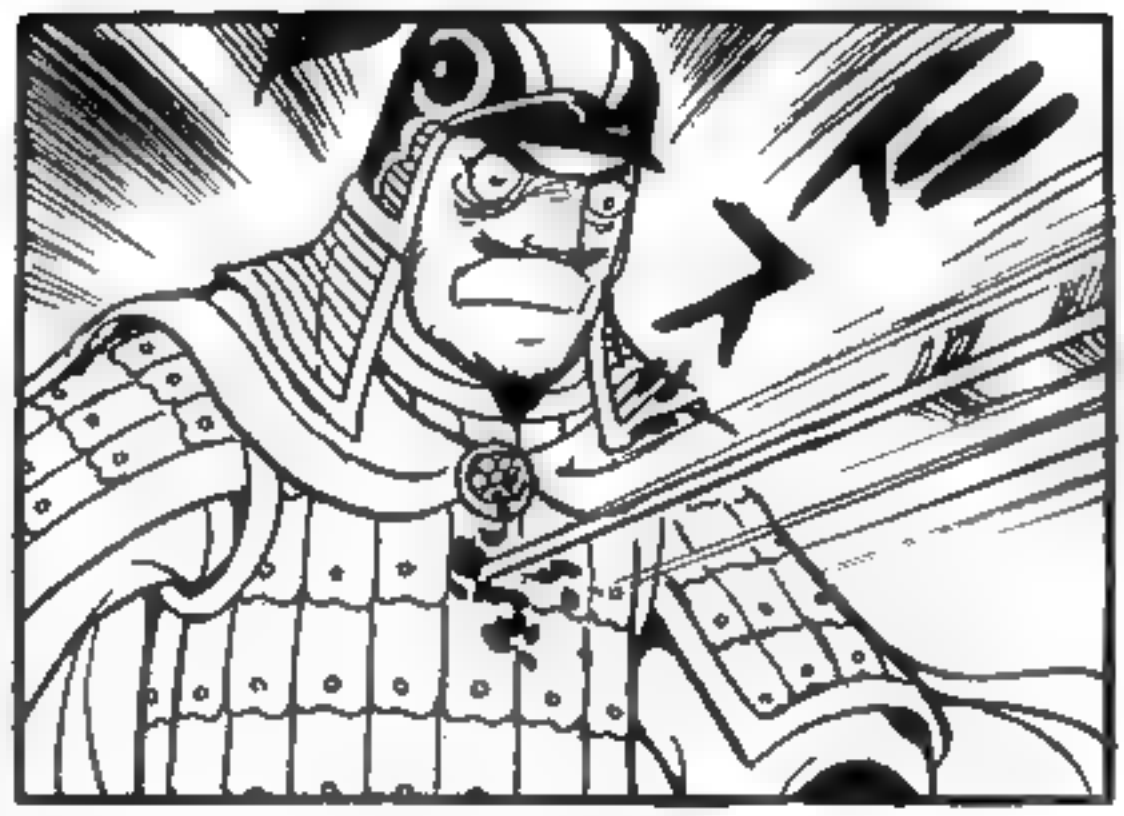


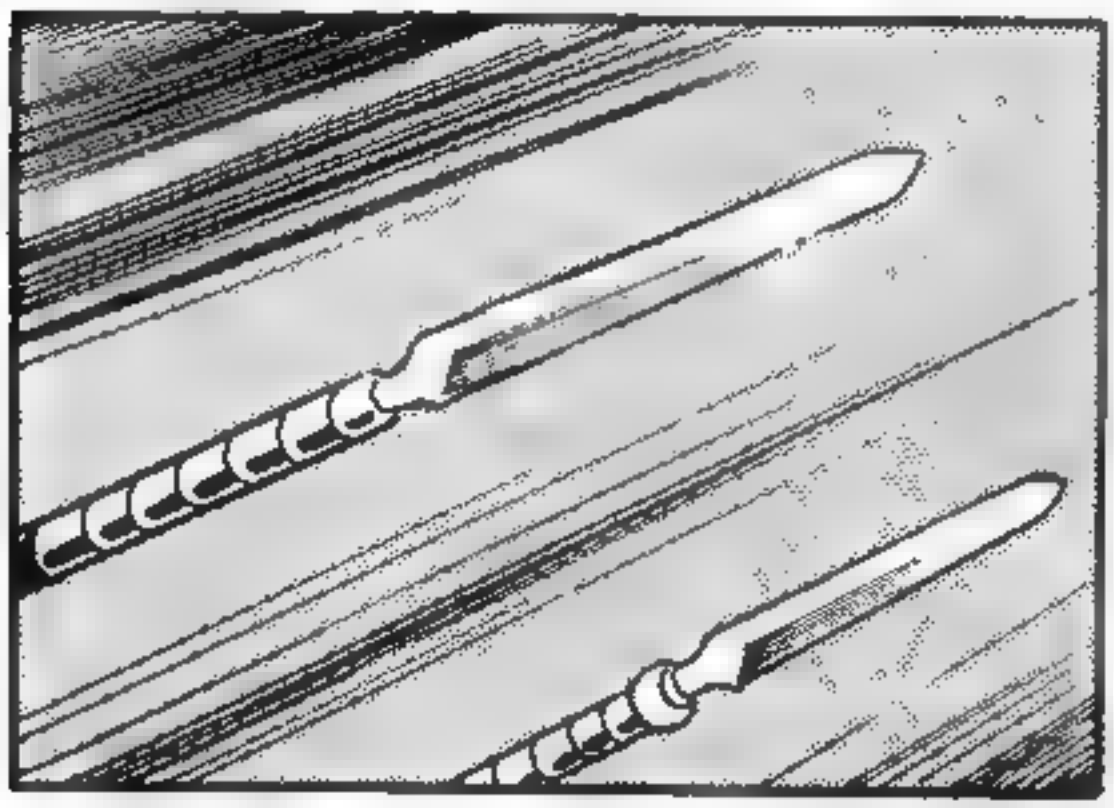


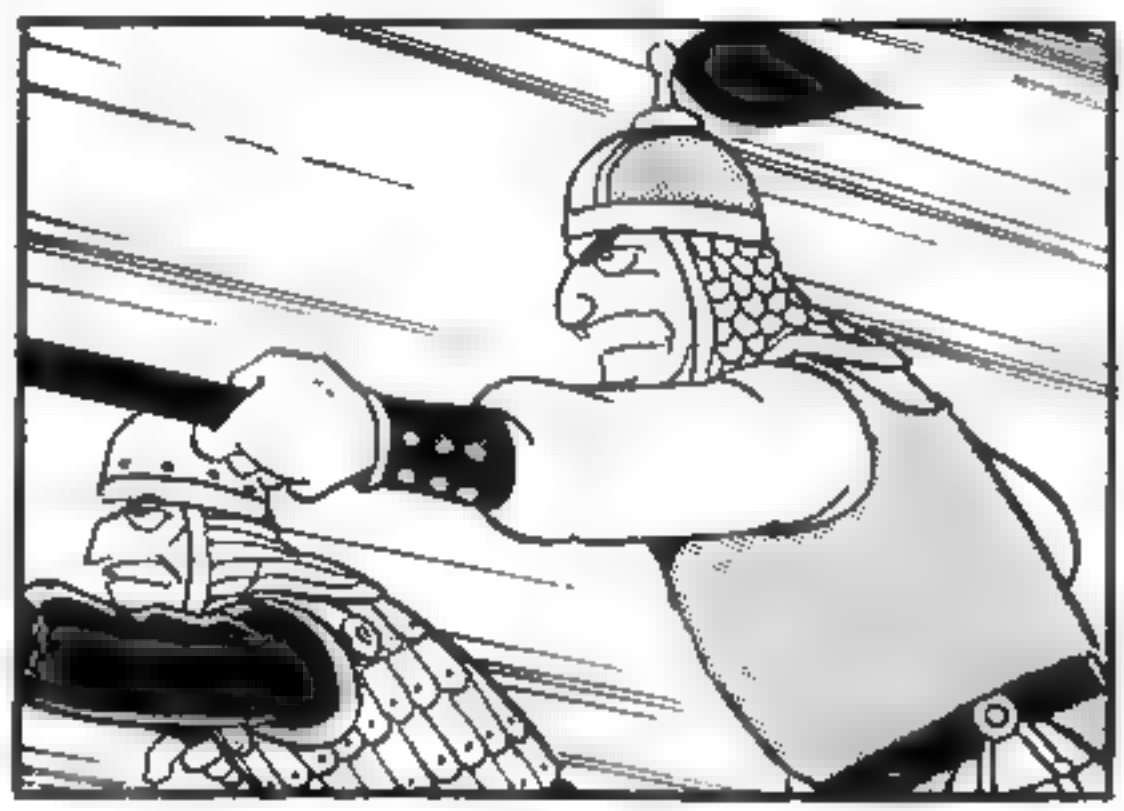


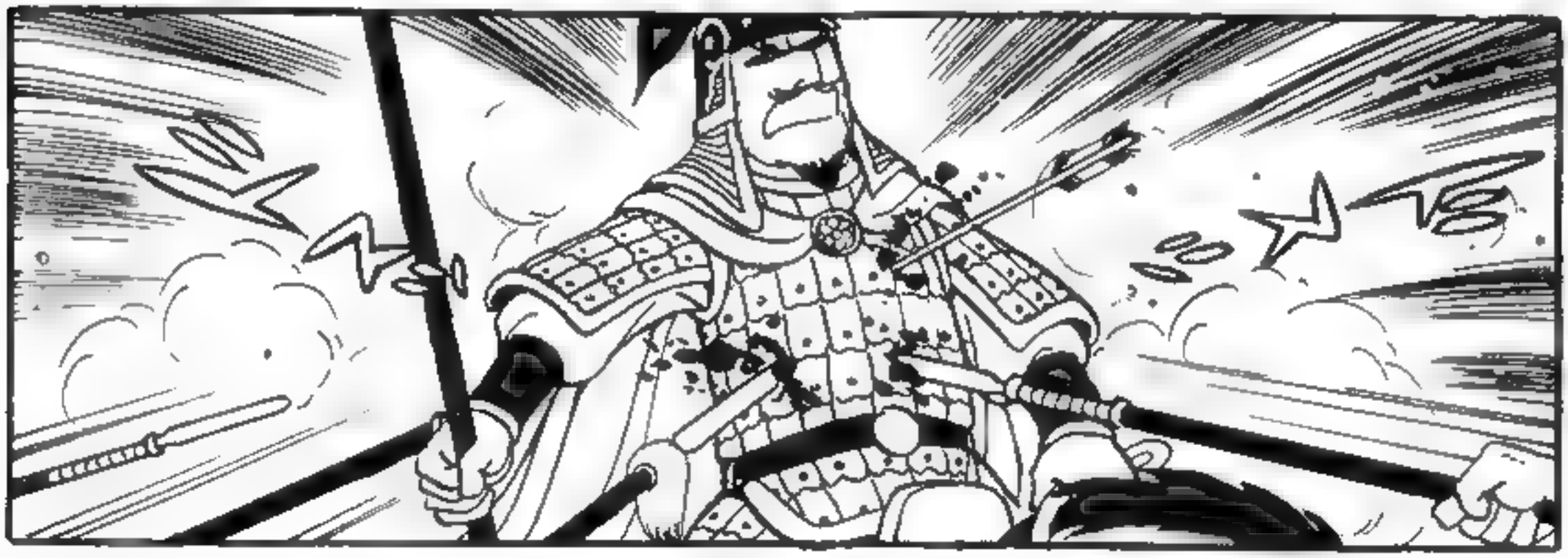


UGHH...



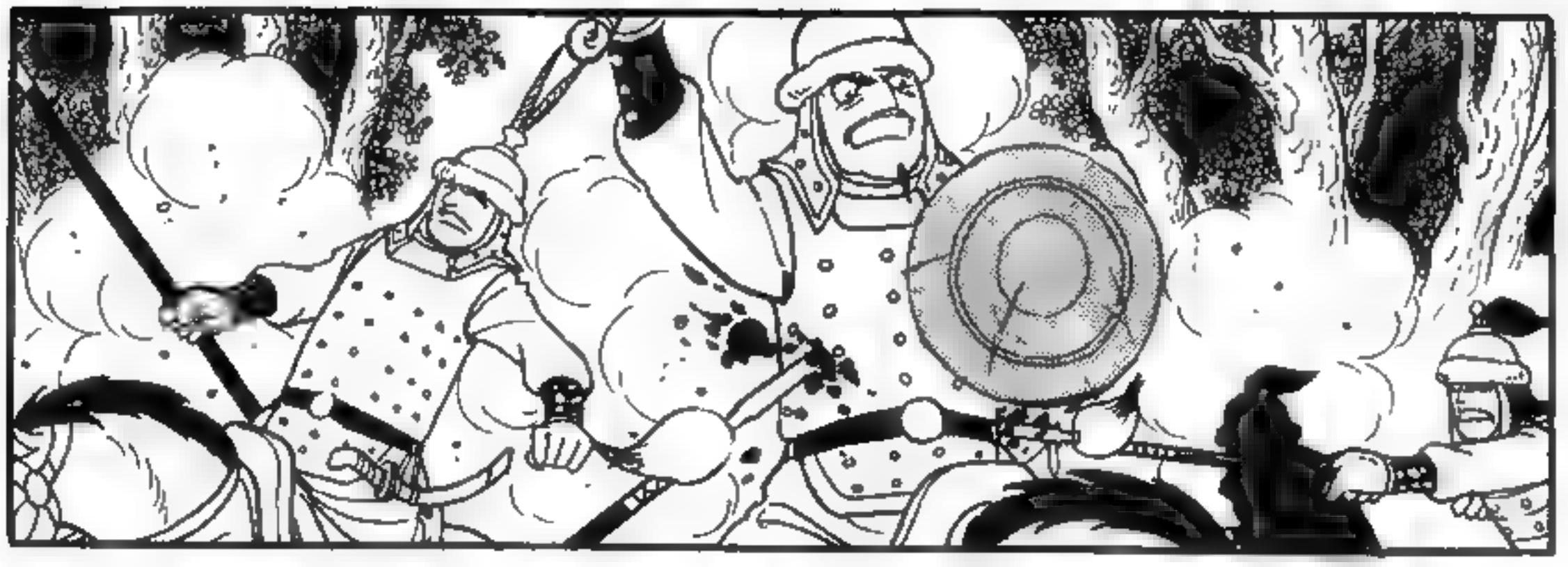


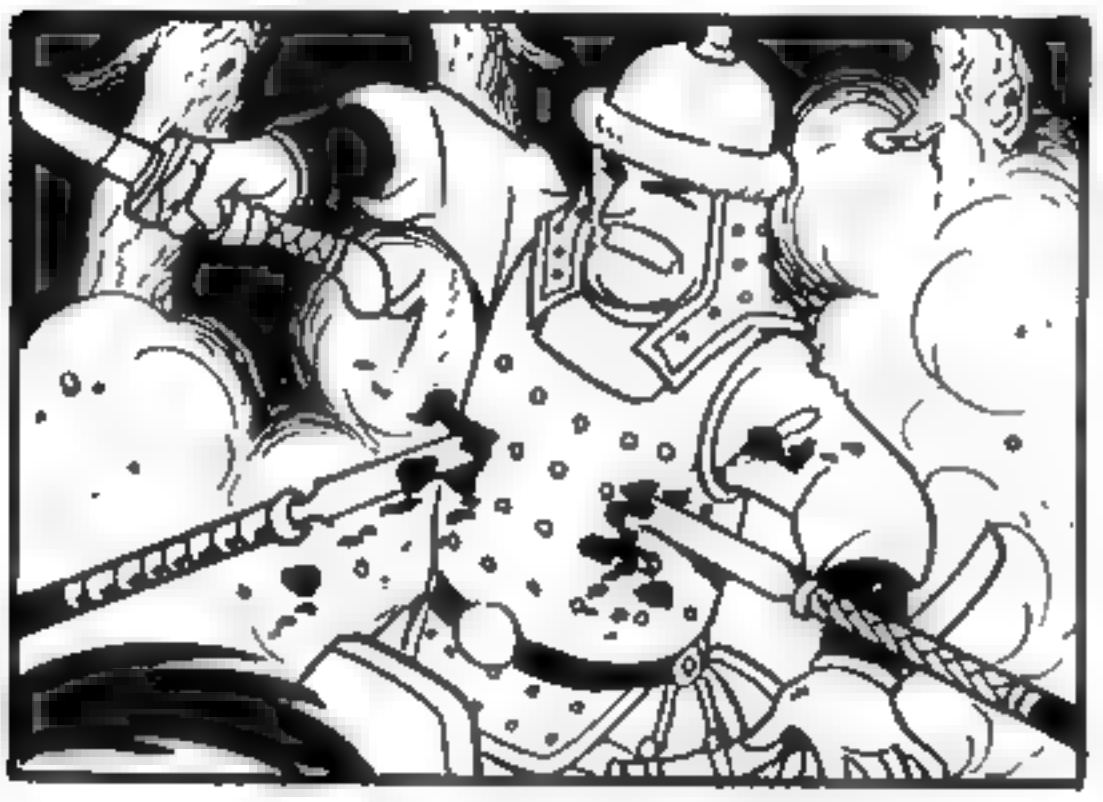




GAHH!

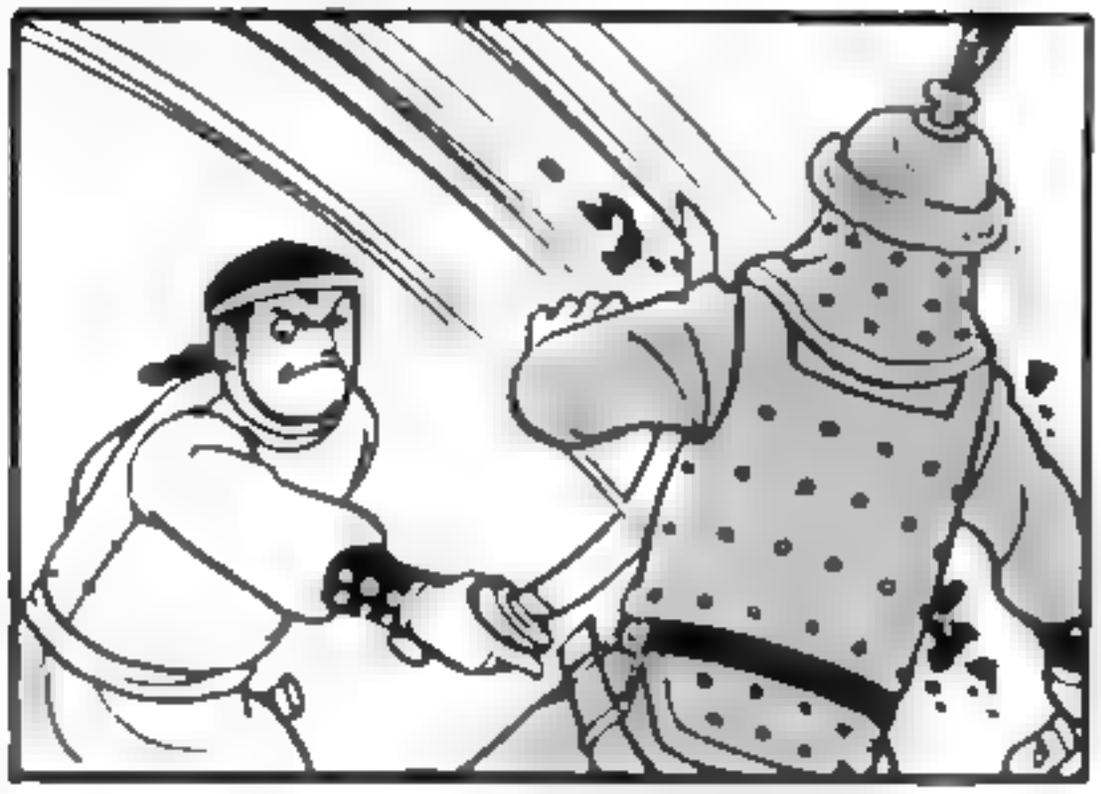
SIR!

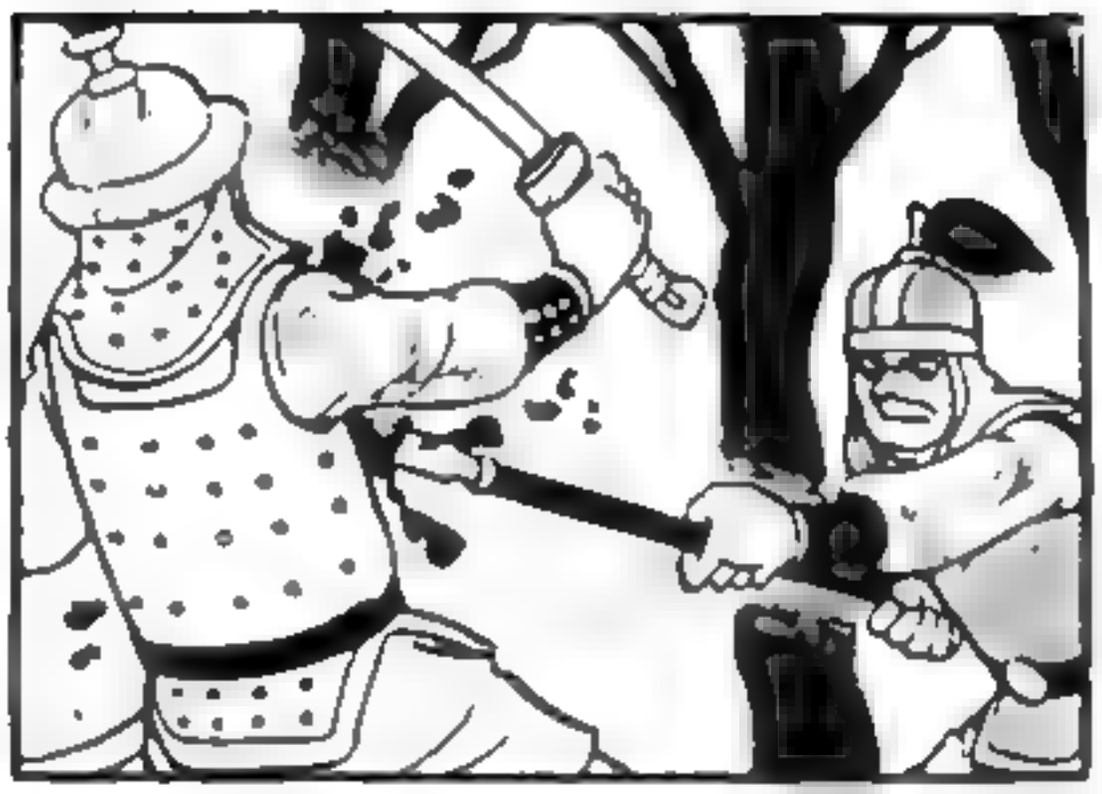




KHORI-
SUBECHI
AND HIS
FOLLOWERS
ALL DIED
FIGHTING

REMAINING
NAIMANS





AHH!

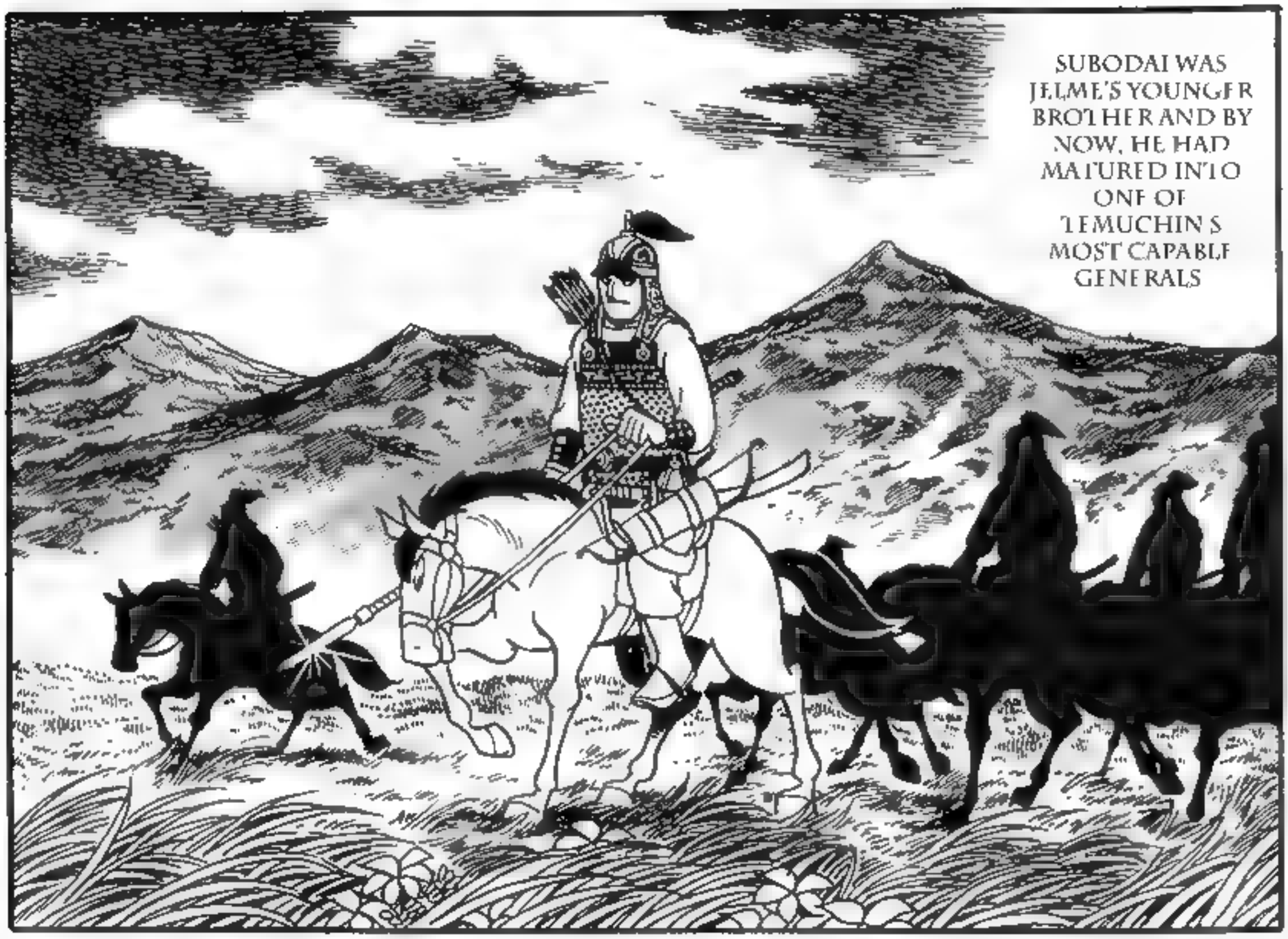
THE NAIMANS WERE PRESSED FURTHER BACK AND BACK UNTIL

STOP PUSHING! IT'S A CLIFF!
ANOTHER THIRD OF THE NAIMANS FELL TO THEIR DEATHS

THE LAST THIRD OF THE NAIMANS FINALLY SURRENDERED

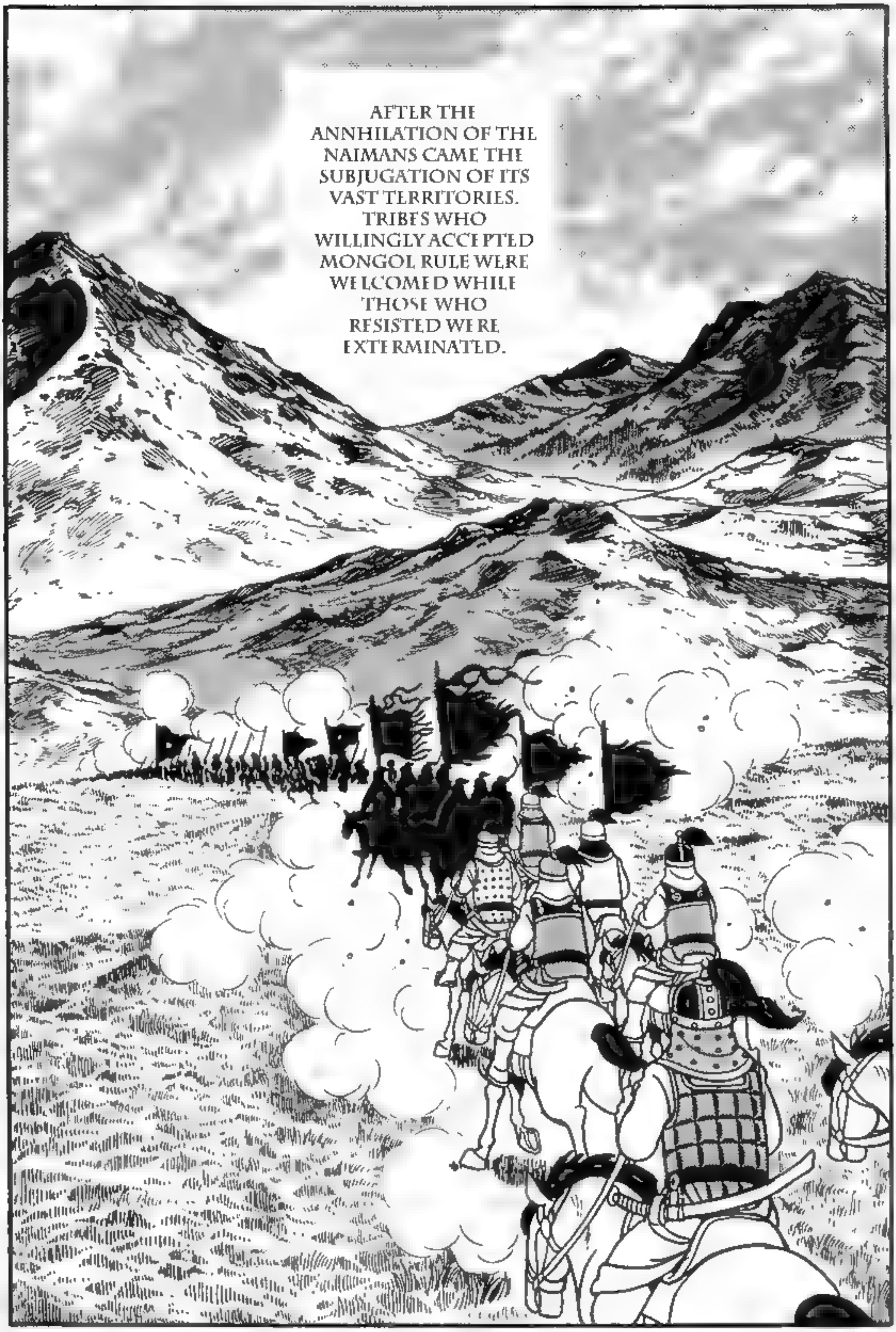
YES, KHAN.

SUBODAI, I LEAVE YOU IN CHARGE OF PURSUING THE NAIMAN ALLIES WHO'VE FLED. DO NOT ALLOW A SINGLE ONE TO SURVIVE.


SUBODAI WAS JELME'S YOUNGER BROTHER AND BY NOW, HE HAD MATURED INTO ONE OF TEMUCHIN'S MOST CAPABLE GENERALS

AS ORDERED, HE MERCILESSLY RAN DOWN ALL TRIBESMEN WHO HAD DARED TO SIDE WITH THE NAIMANS AND RAISE ARMS AGAINST THEM

AFTER THE ANNHILATION OF THE NAIMANS CAME THE SUBJUGATION OF ITS VAST TERRITORIES. TRIBES WHO WILLINGLY ACCEPTED MONGOL RULE WERE WELCOMED WHILE THOSE WHO RESISTED WERE EXTERMINATED.



STRANGE?

WE'VE APPREHENDED A STRANGE MAN, MY KHAN.

OH?

HE'S NOT A WARRIOR BUT HE APPEARS TO BE OF HIGH STATUS.

YES.

LET HIM IN THEN.

MAY I PRESUME YOU ARE A NAIMAN NOBLEMAN?

INTO SCRIPT? EXPLAIN FURTHER.

I AM TATA-TONGA, THE CHANCELLOR TO THE FORMER NAIMAN KHAN. MY DUTIES INCLUDED PUTTING ROYAL DECREES AND AFFAIRS OF THE KHANATE INTO SCRIPT.

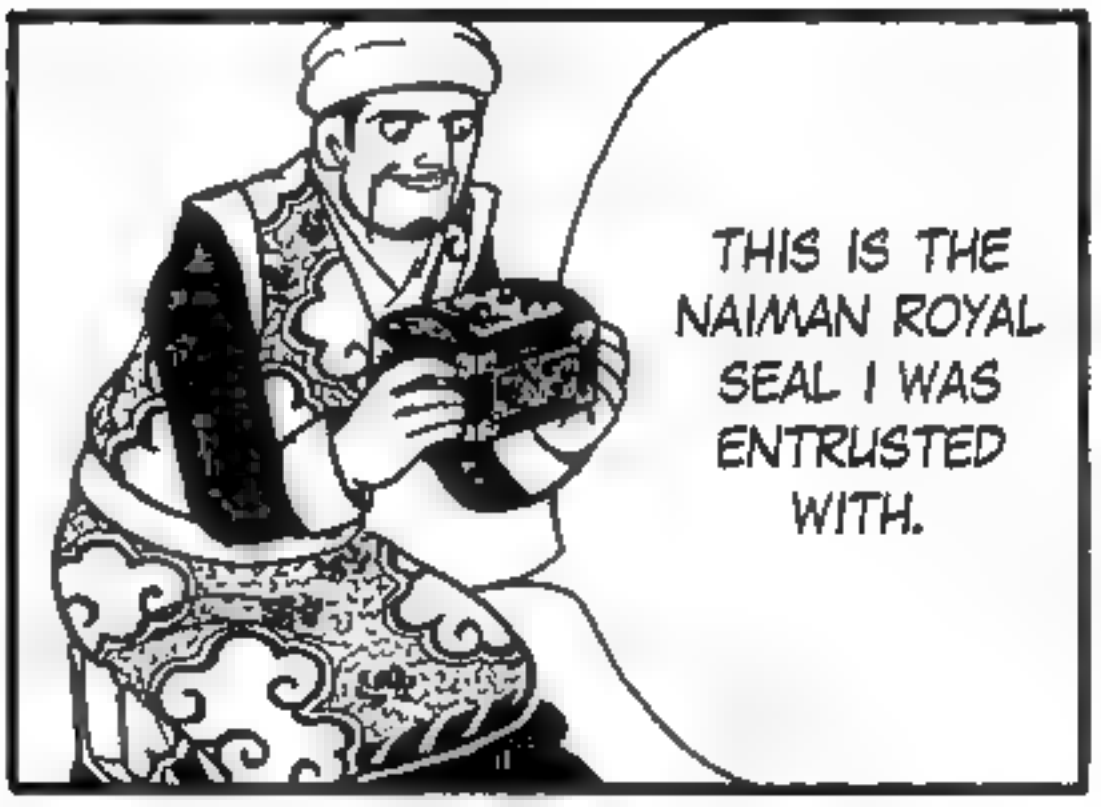
I SEE...

AH WELL, THE SPECIFIC WRITING SYSTEM DEPENDS ON THE PREFERRED LANGUAGE OF A STATE. THE XI-XIA USES THE TANGUT SCRIPT WHILE THE JIN EMPIRE USES THE JURCHEN SCRIPT IN ADDITION TO TRADITIONAL CHINESE. AS FOR WE NAIMANS, WE USE THE UIGHUR SCRIPT.

AHH, I SEE...

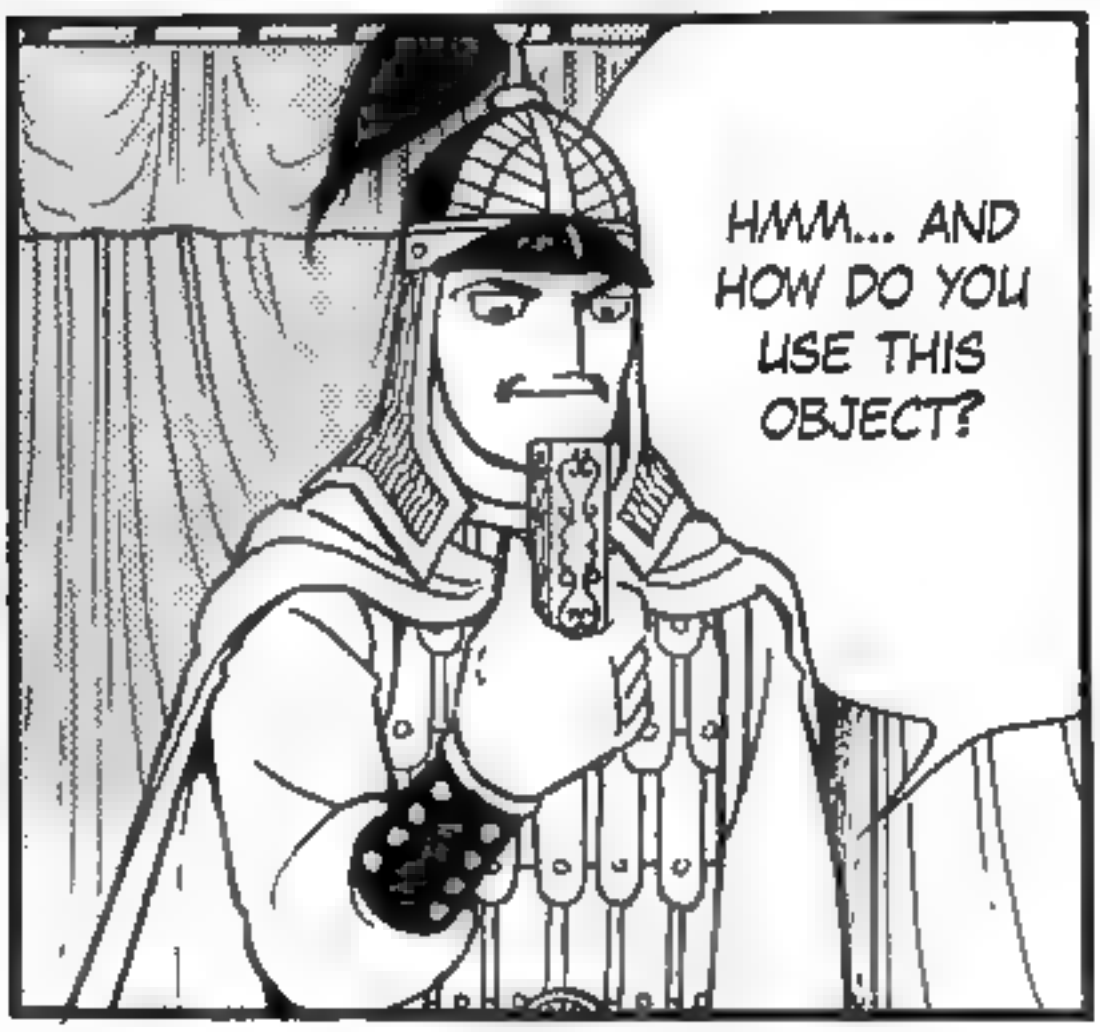
IT IS DIFFICULT TO CONVEY ANY EXPRESSION OVER AND OVER AGAIN WITHOUT SOME INSTANCES OF MISUNDERSTANDING. WRITING, HOWEVER, ALLOWS A STATEMENT TO BE PRESERVED IN ALL ITS PRECISION NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES IT IS EXPRESSED.

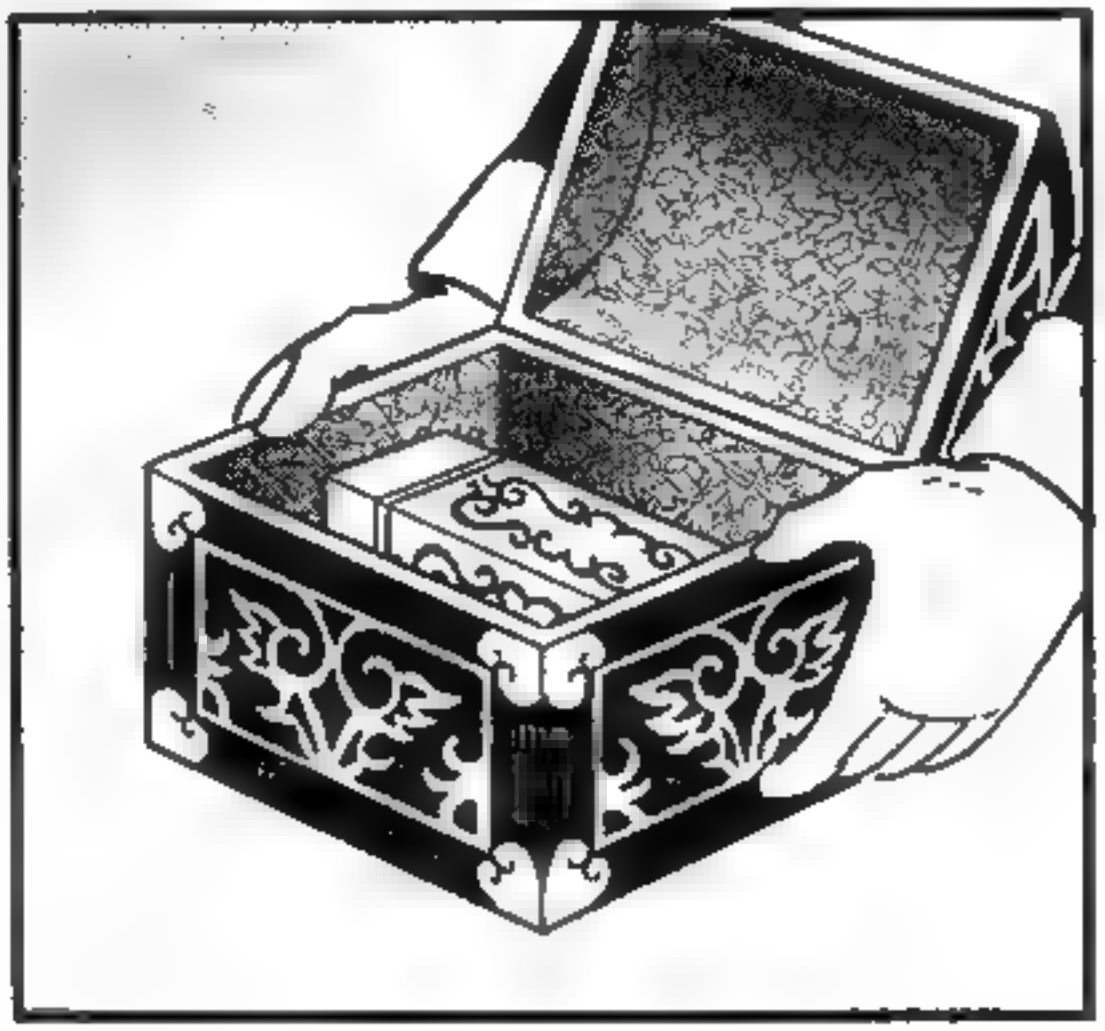
IS WRITING REALLY SUCH A USEFUL TOOL...?


THIS IS THE NAIMAN ROYAL SEAL I WAS ENTRUSTED WITH.

AND WHAT'S THAT YOU'RE HOLDING?

LET ME SEE.
I BELIEVE IT IS MY DUTY TO PASS THIS ONTO YOU, THE NEXT KHAN.


HMM... AND HOW DO YOU USE THIS OBJECT?



HMM...

WHENEVER YOU ISSUE A WRITTEN EDICT OR DELIVER A MESSAGE TO YOUR VASSALS, THE MARK STAMPED BY THE ROYAL SEAL WILL CERTIFY THAT IT IS GENUINE AND COMES DIRECTLY FROM YOU.

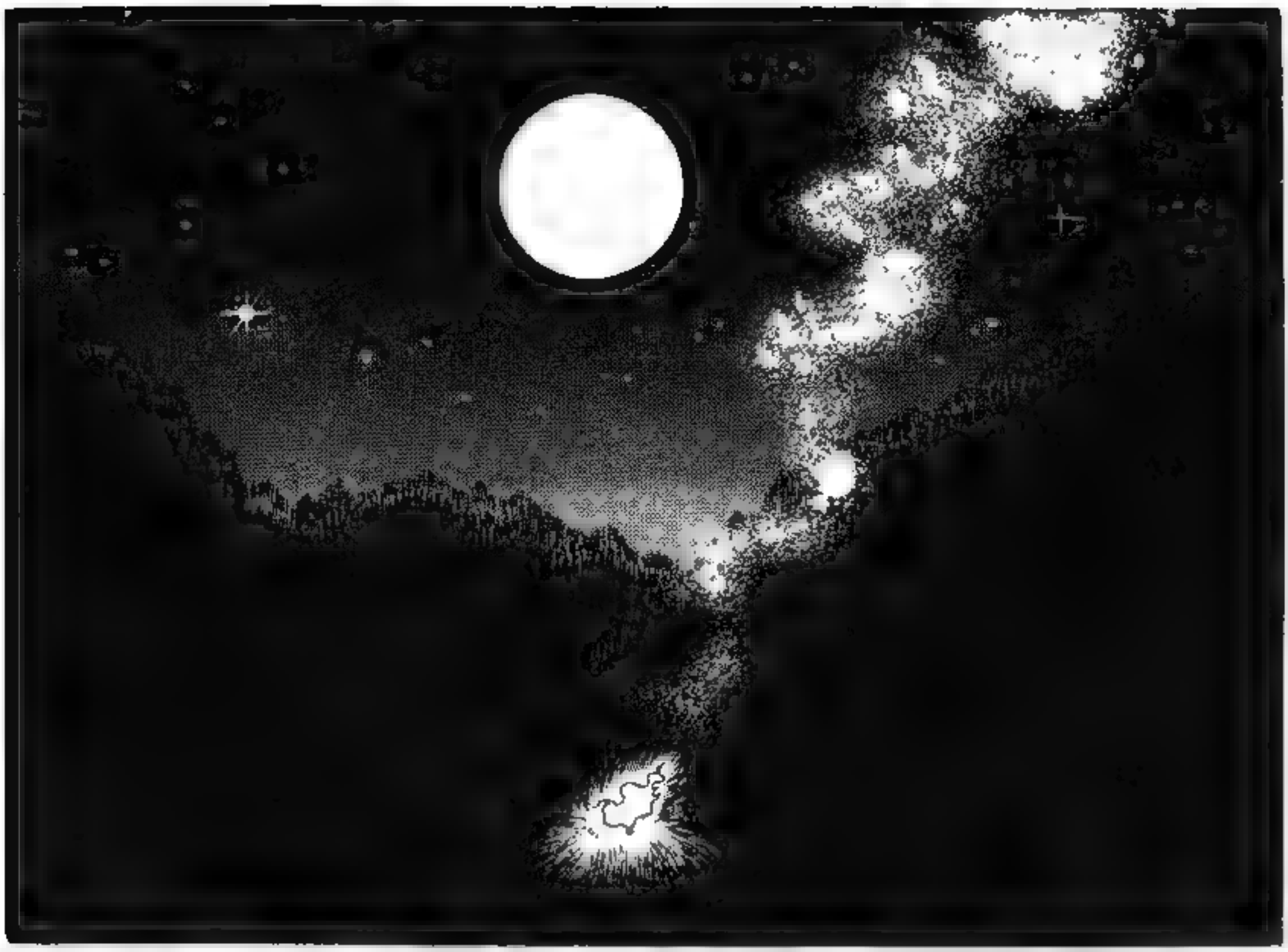
YES.

I ORDER YOU TO KEEP THE SEAL SAFE AS YOU HAVE DONE UNTIL NOW.

THERE'S QUITE A LOT OF COMPLEXITIES TO THIS WHOLE WRITING BUSINESS...

OF COURSE, KHAN.
NEEDLESS TO SAY, YOU WILL NOT LET ANYONE ELSE USE IT OTHER THAN MYSELF.
WRITING, HMM... I'VE EXPRESSED ALL MY ORDERS ORALLY UNTIL NOW, BUT EVEN I'D NOTICED THE TENDENCY OF WORDS TO CHANGE AS IT PASSES FROM MOUTH TO MOUTH. WITH THIS WRITING TOOL, I'LL HAVE THE ABILITY TO GOVERN MY PEOPLE AND LANDS WITH MORE PRECISION THAN EVER. I MUST LEARN TO MAKE GOOD USE OF IT...

Lord of the Steppe



JUST HOW LONG CAN WE REALLY LIVE A LIFE ON THE RUN FOR?

THE MONGOLS ARE DETERMINED TO HUNT DOWN EVERY LAST MAN WHO SIDED WITH THE NAIMANS...

DON'T BE STUPID. YOU THINK HE'D JUST FORGIVE US AFTER HOW LONG WE'VE VIOLENTLY OPPOSED HIM?

WHY DON'T WE JUST SURRENDER TO TEMUCHIN?

GIFT?

HE MAY CHANGE HIS MIND IF WE BRING A LITTLE GIFT...

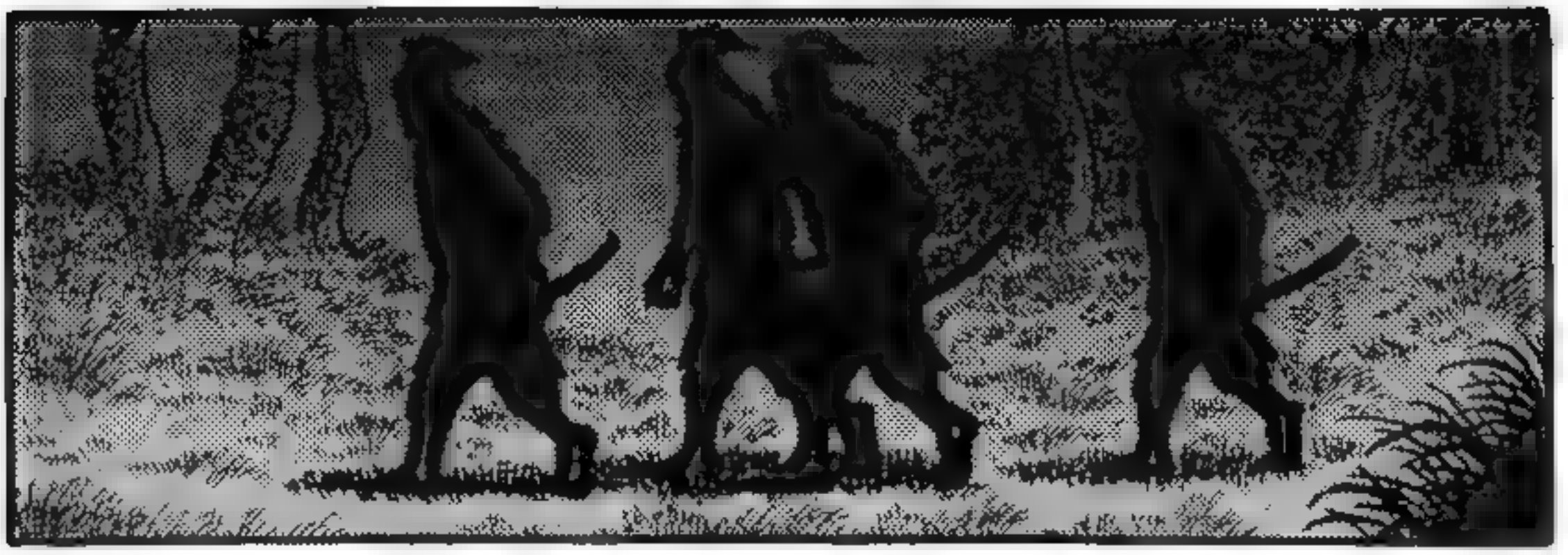
BETRAY JAMUKA?

I'M TALKING ABOUT JAMUKA, OF COURSE.

.....

LOOK WE'VE GOT NOWHERE ELSE TO HIDE, AND WHAT COULD WE ACCOMPLISH WITH OUR NUMBERS?

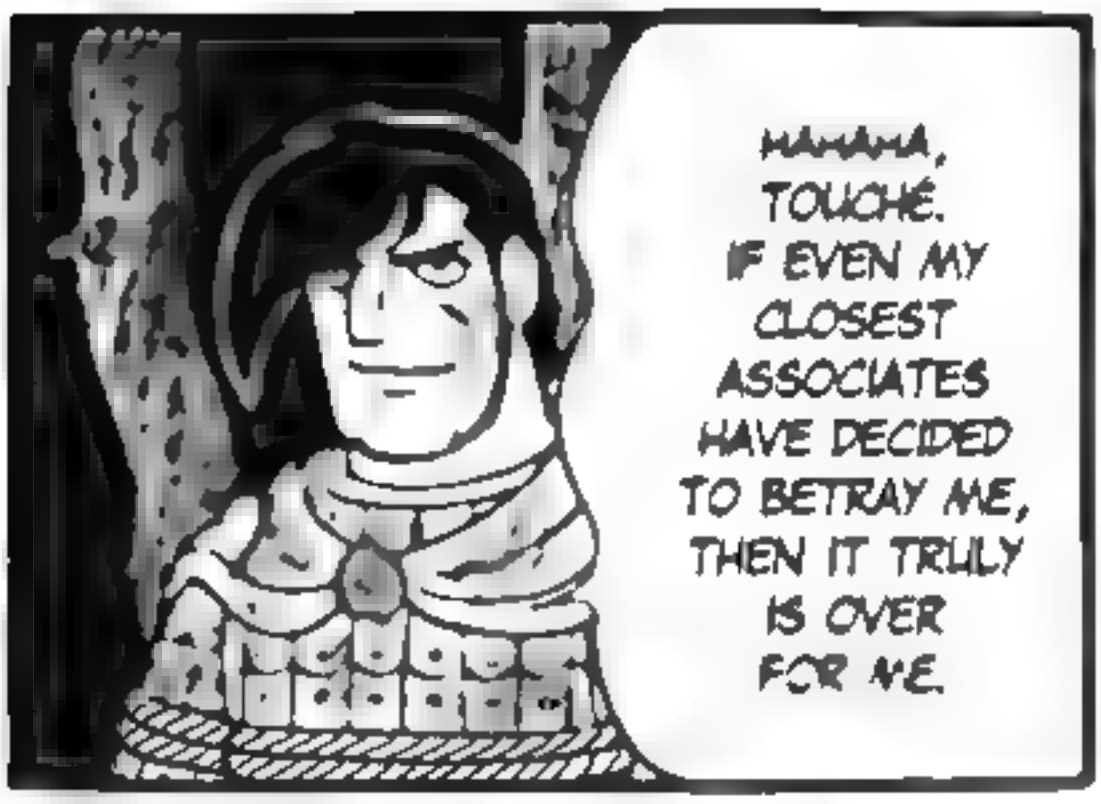
LET'S DO IT THEN...



WHAT IS IT, MEN?

JAMUKA.

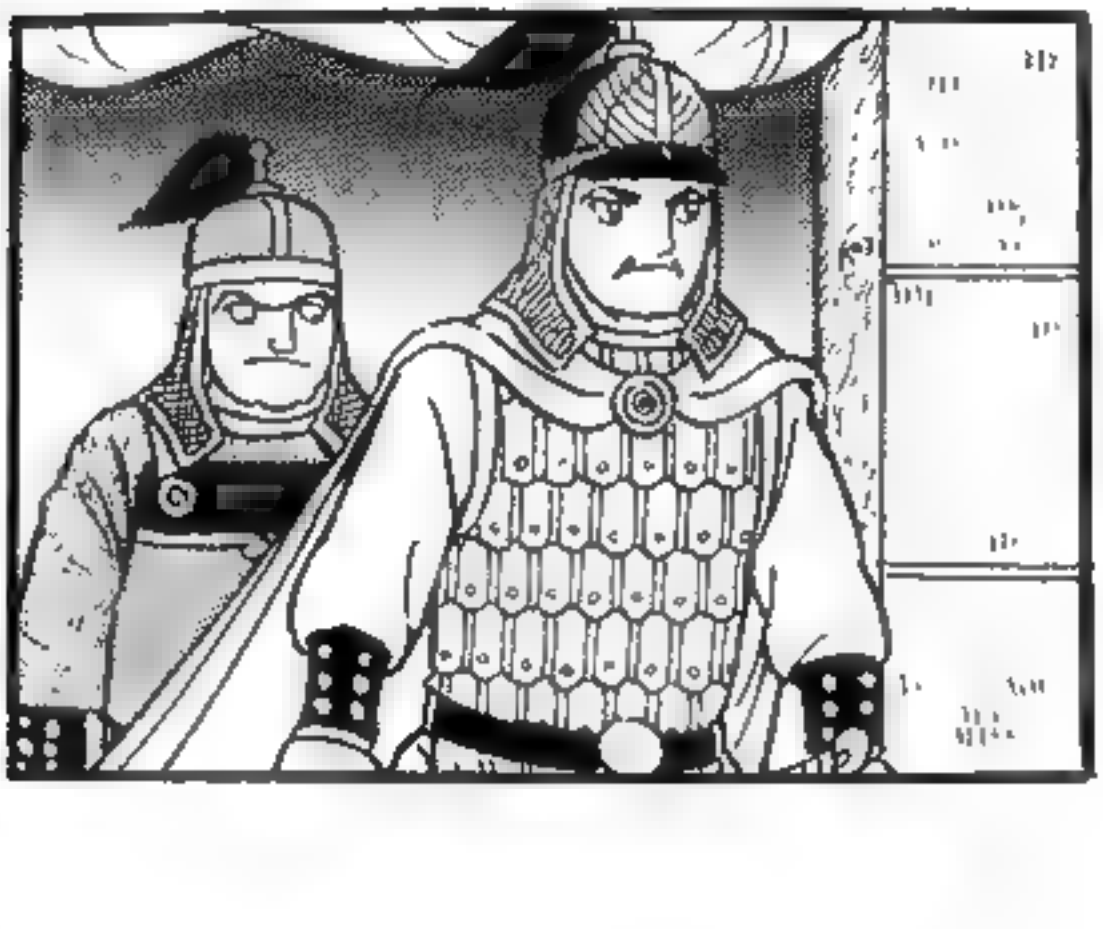
W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
WE HAVE DECIDED TO HAND YOU OVER TO TEMUCHIN.
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS!?
"BETRAY," IS NOT A WORD YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO LIGHTLY USE.
YOU'RE BETRAYING ME!?

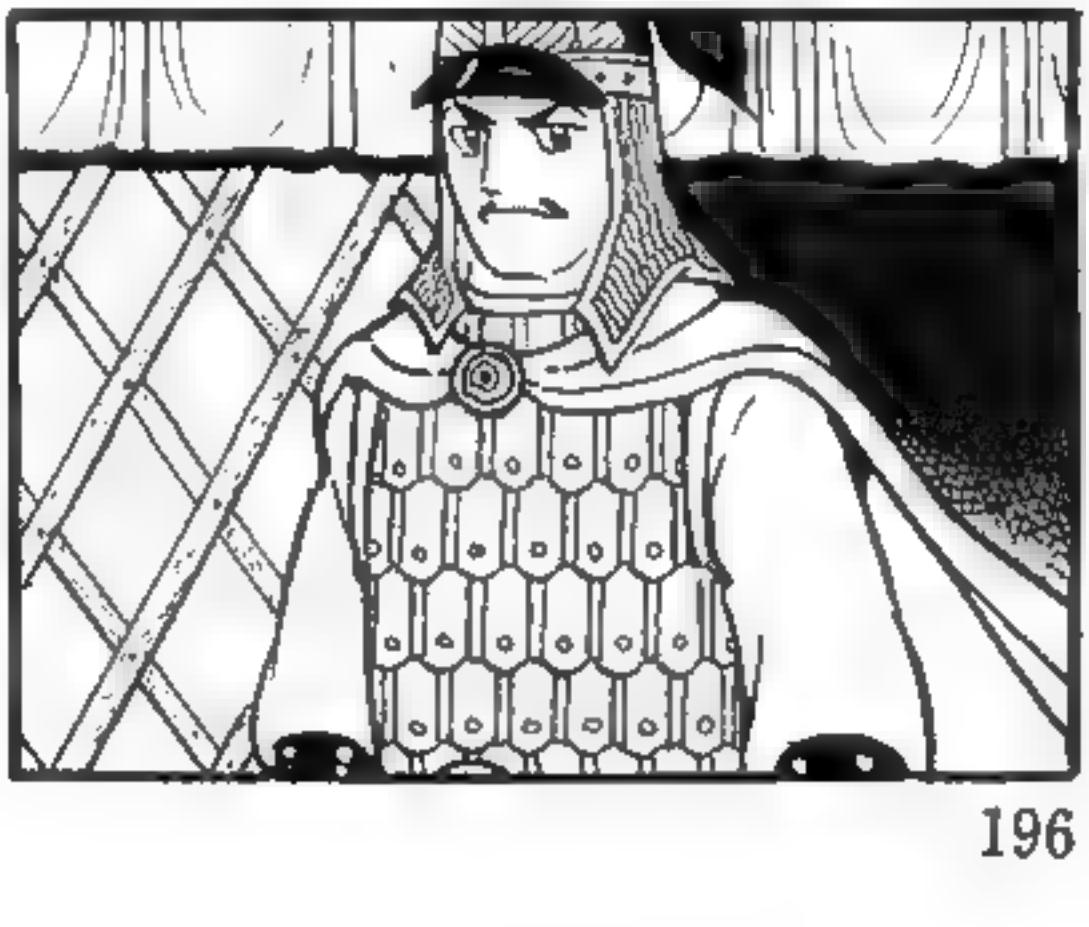

HAHAHA,
TOUCHÉ.
IF EVEN MY
CLOSEST
ASSOCIATES
HAVE DECIDED
TO BETRAY ME,
THEN IT TRULY
IS OVER
FOR ME.

AFTER ALL,
IS IT NOT
ONE OF YOUR
SPECIALTIES...?

I HAVE MY PRIDE.
I WILL NOT
STRUGGLE FOR A
FUTILE EFFORT.
TAKE ME WHEREVER
YOU WISH.

YES, KHAN.
WHAT!? JAMUKA'S OWN FOLLOWERS HAVE COME TO TURN HIM IN?





YES, KHAN.

SO YOU'RE THE ONES WHO'VE COME TO TURN JAMUKA IN?

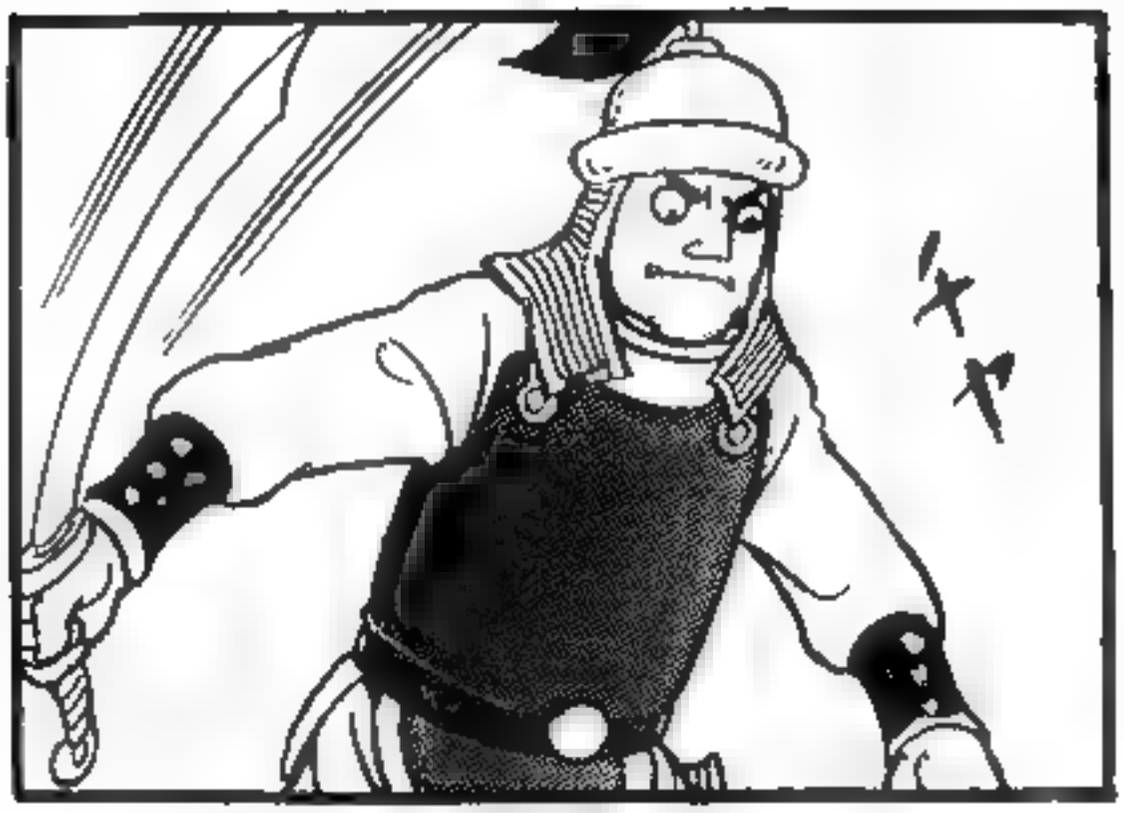
WE ONLY BARED OUR FANGS AGAINST YOU IN THE PAST BECAUSE OF JAMUKA'S ORDERS. HOWEVER, WE NOW SURRENDER OURSELVES TO YOU WITH JAMUKA IN THE HOPES THAT YOU WILL FORGIVE US.

.....

HAVE YOU NO SHAME SELLING OUT YOUR OWN MASTER!?

SINCE MY BOYHOOD, I HAVE SEEN JUST HOW LOATHSOME THE ACT OF BETRAYAL IS. THERE IS NOTHING SO DESPICABLE AS A MAN WHO EASILY SELLS HIS LOYALTIES.

DO YOU REALLY EXPECT ME TO TAKE IN SCUM WHO'VE DEMONSTRATED THEY VALUE THEIR OWN LIVES OVER THEIR LORD'S!? GUARDS! EXECUTE THEM AT ONCE!



AGHHH!

YOU AND I HAVE SWORN TO BE ANDA IN THE PAST.
AND I, TOO, AM ASHAMED TO SHOW YOU MYSELF LIKE THIS.
JAMUKA, IT IS A SHAME TO SEE YOU LIKE THIS.

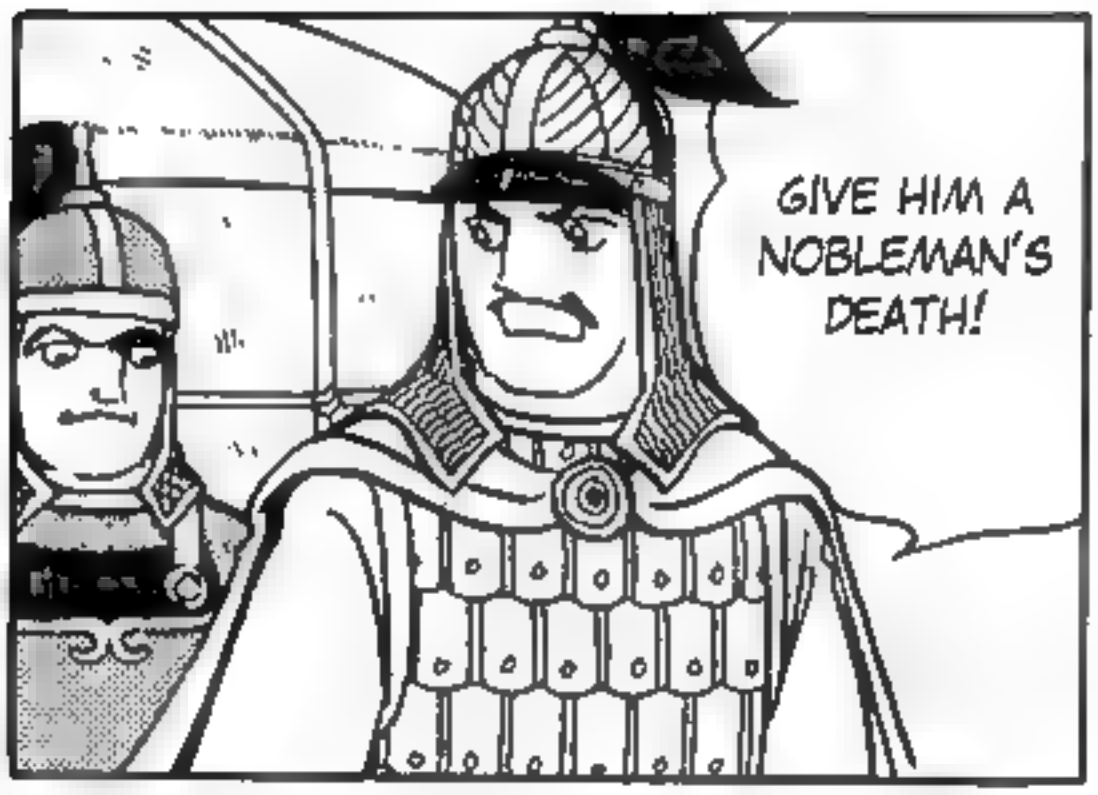
ONE WISH...?

I WILL NOT DENY THE DEBTS I OWE YOU FOR HELPING ME RECOVER MY WIFE AND OFFERING MY ONCE-SMALL TRIBE PROTECTION BY ALLOWING US TO ACCOMPANY YOUR TRIBE. AS SUCH, I WILL NOW GRANT YOU ONE WISH. IF YOU WISH TO BE FREE, THEN YOU WILL BE FREE. I WILL NOT ALLOW MY MEN TO HARM YOU EITHER AFTERWARDS.

I DO NOT WANT MEN TO SAY THAT I WAS THE SORT WHO BEGGED FOR HIS LIFE. I VALUE MY PRIDE FAR MORE THAN MY LIFE.

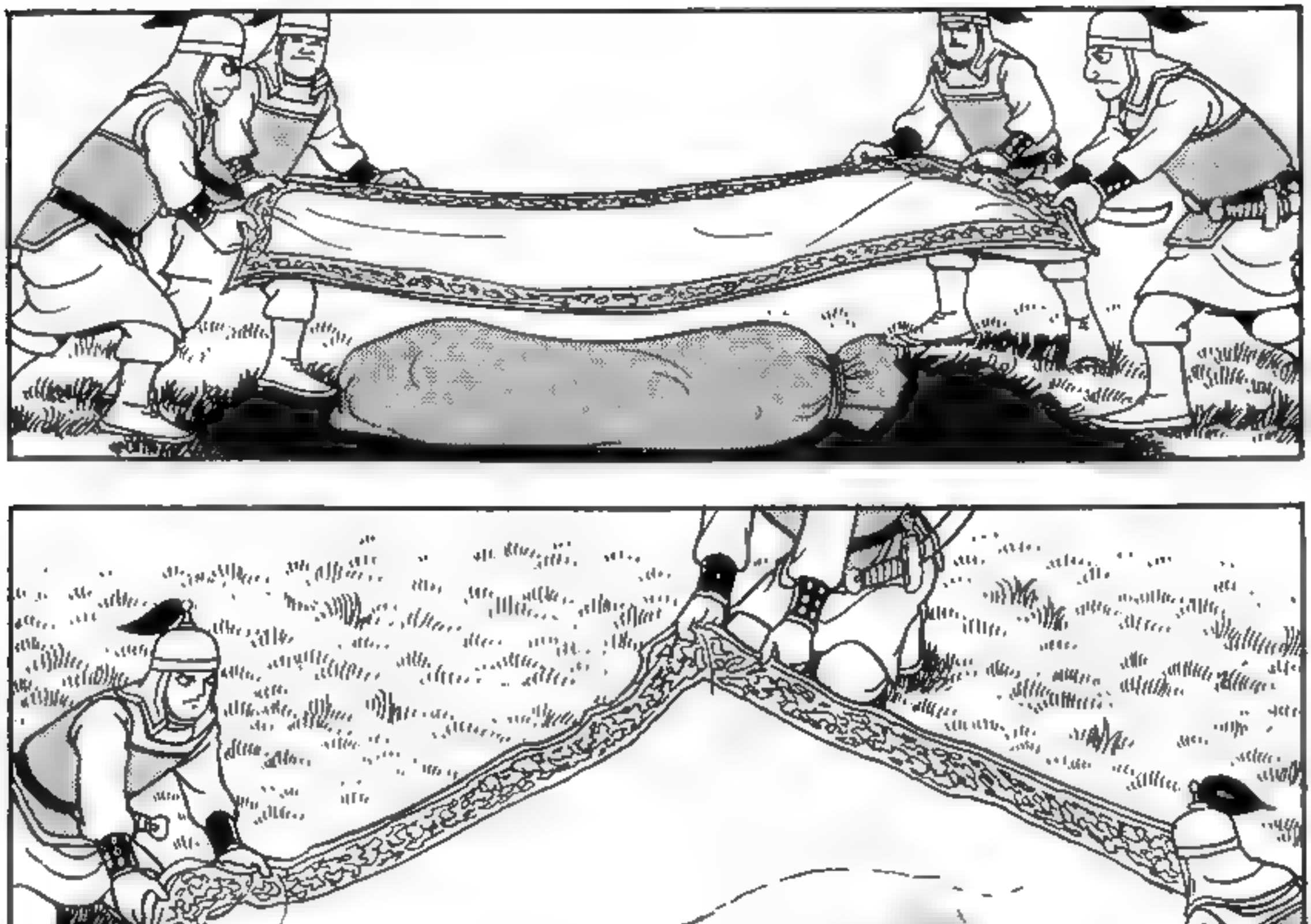
YOU DO NOT WISH TO LIVE?

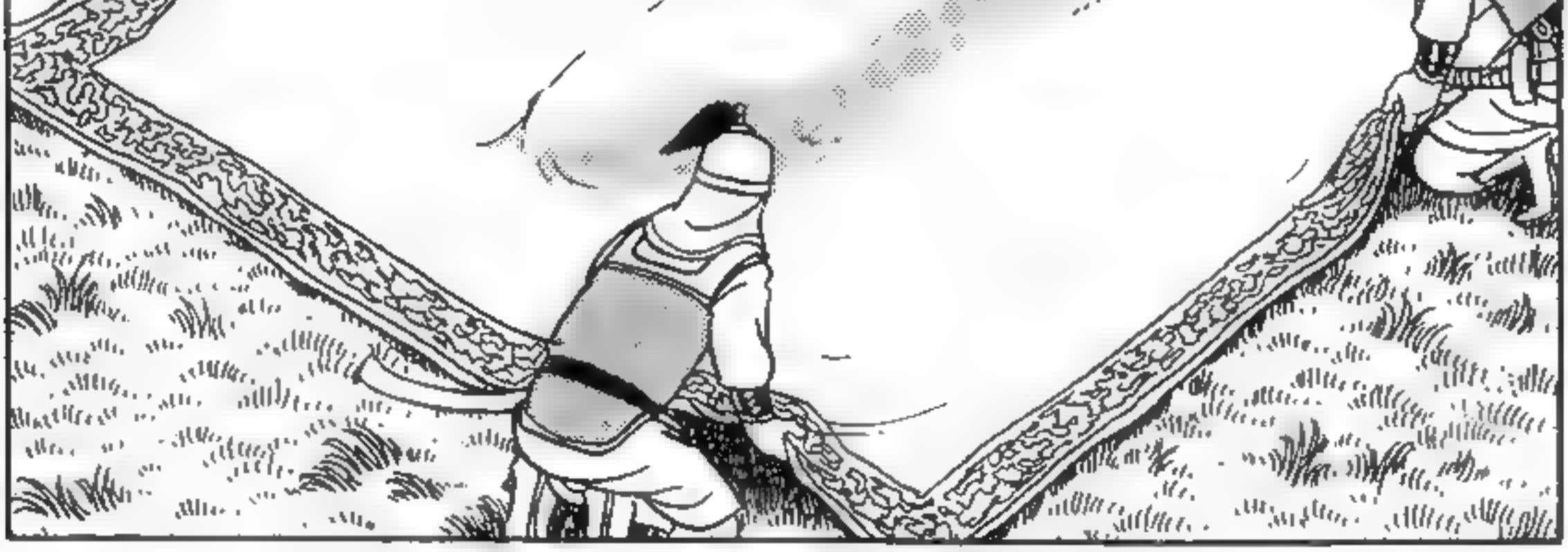
GIVE ME A NOBLEMAN'S DEATH.

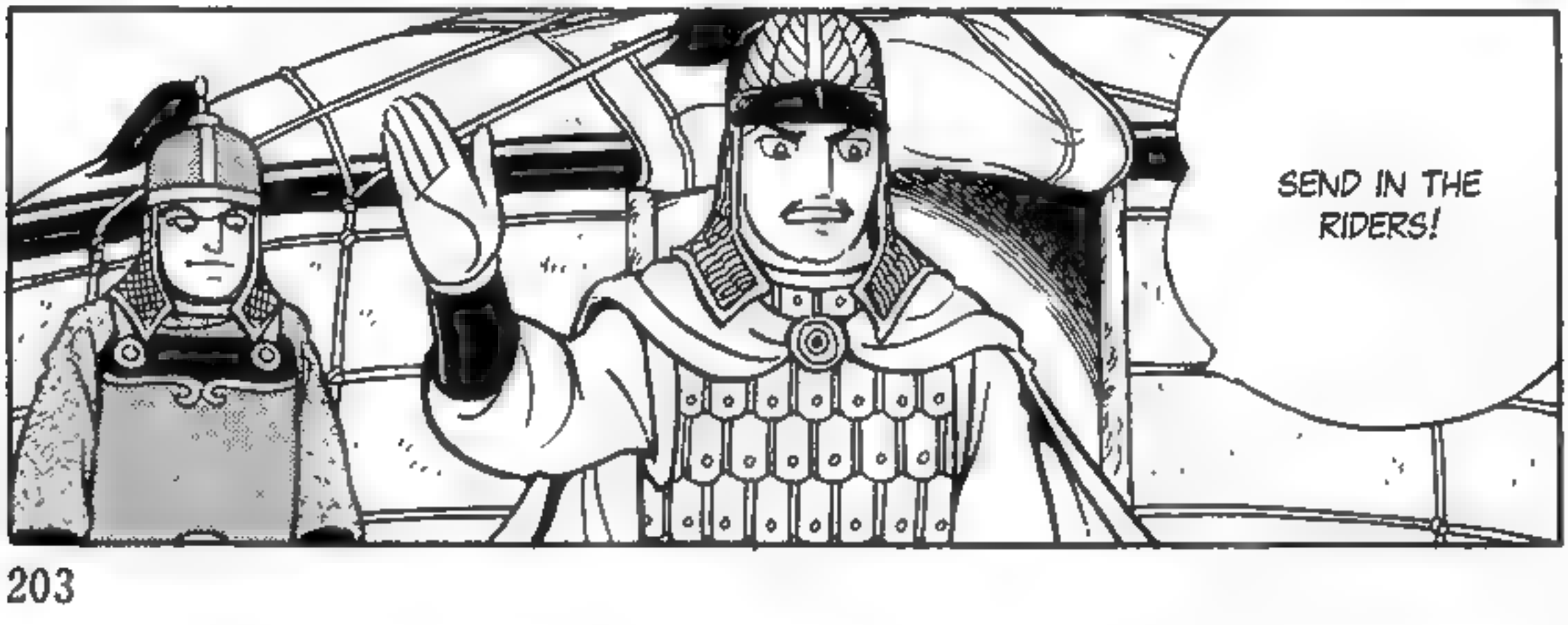

GIVE HIM A NOBLEMAN'S DEATH!

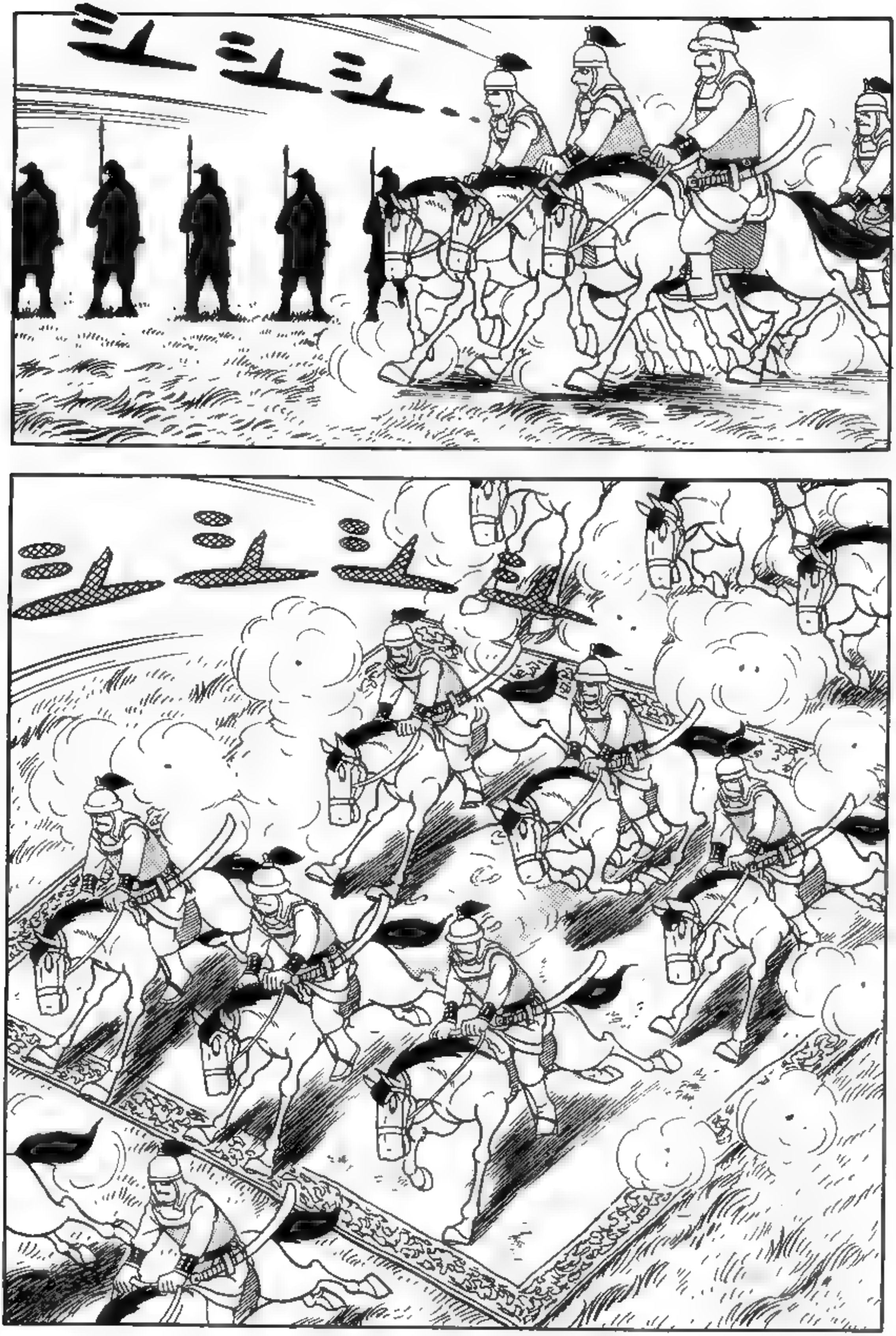
VERY WELL.

THE MONGOLS BELIEVED THAT REINCARNATION WAS NOT POSSIBLE FOR ONE WHO DIED WITH HIS BLOOD SPILLING ONTO THE GROUND.



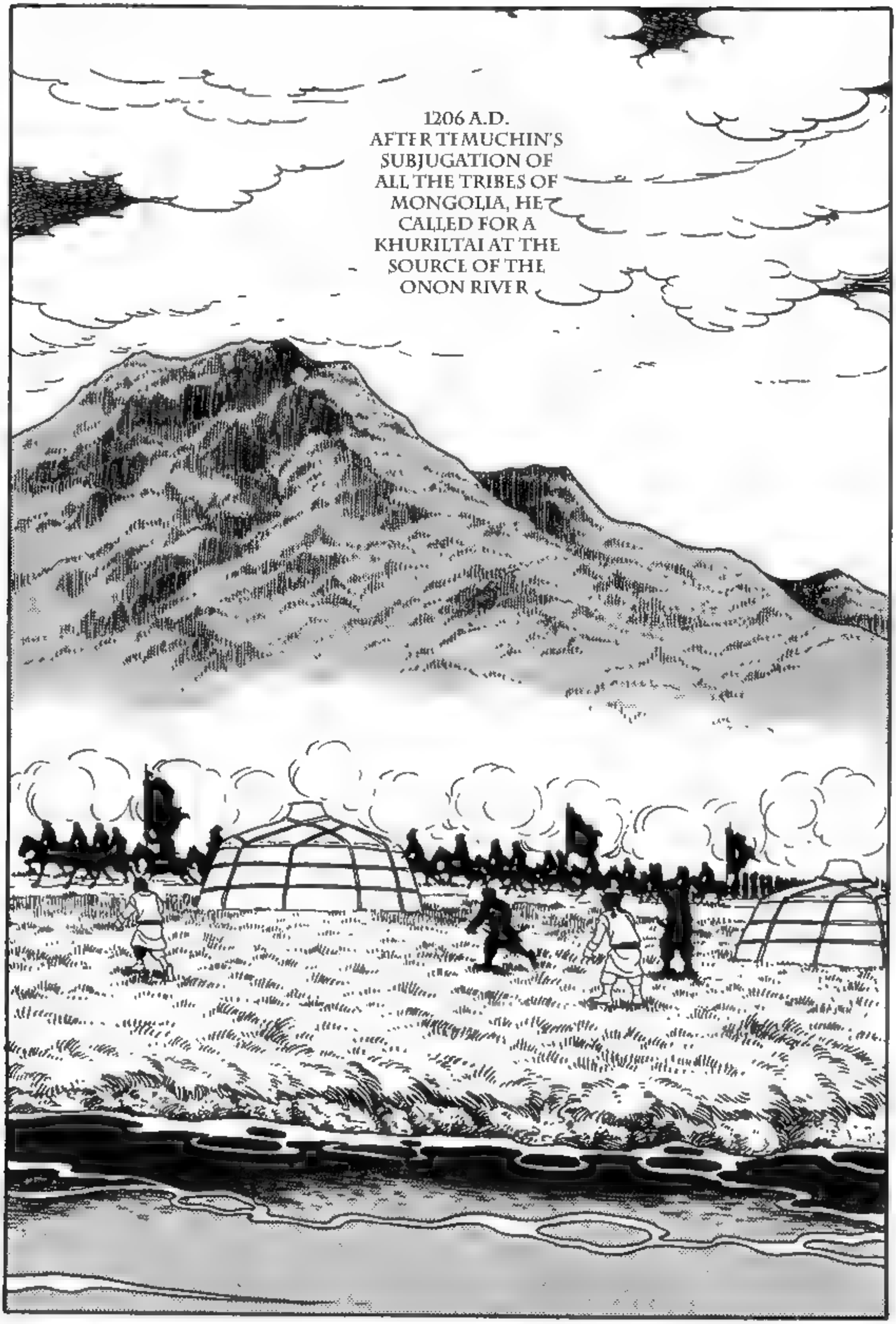



SEND IN THE RIDERS!



TEMUCHIN'S LAST FOE WAS NO MORE AT LAST.

*KHURILTAI GRAND ASSEMBLY, USUALLY FOR SOME POLITICAL PURPOSE



TATA-TONGA,
I AM PLANNING TO
DECLARE MYSELF
KHAN OF ALL TRIBES.

YES?

YES.

I WISH FOR MY PROMULGATION TO BE WRITTEN DOWN, STAMPED WITH MY ROYAL SEAL, AND DELIVERED TO ALL THE TRIBES IN THE STEPPE.

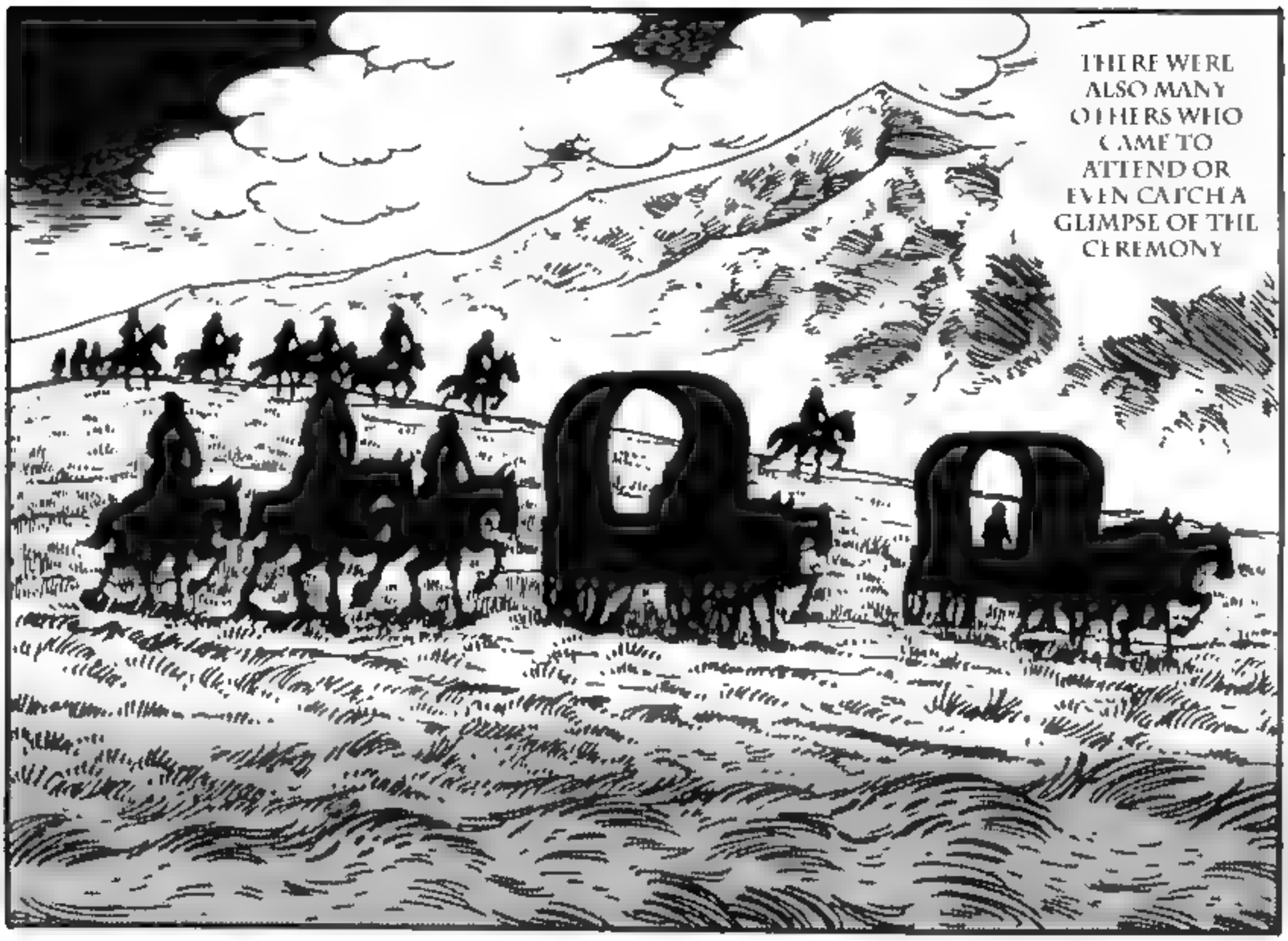
UNDERSTOOD, KHAN.

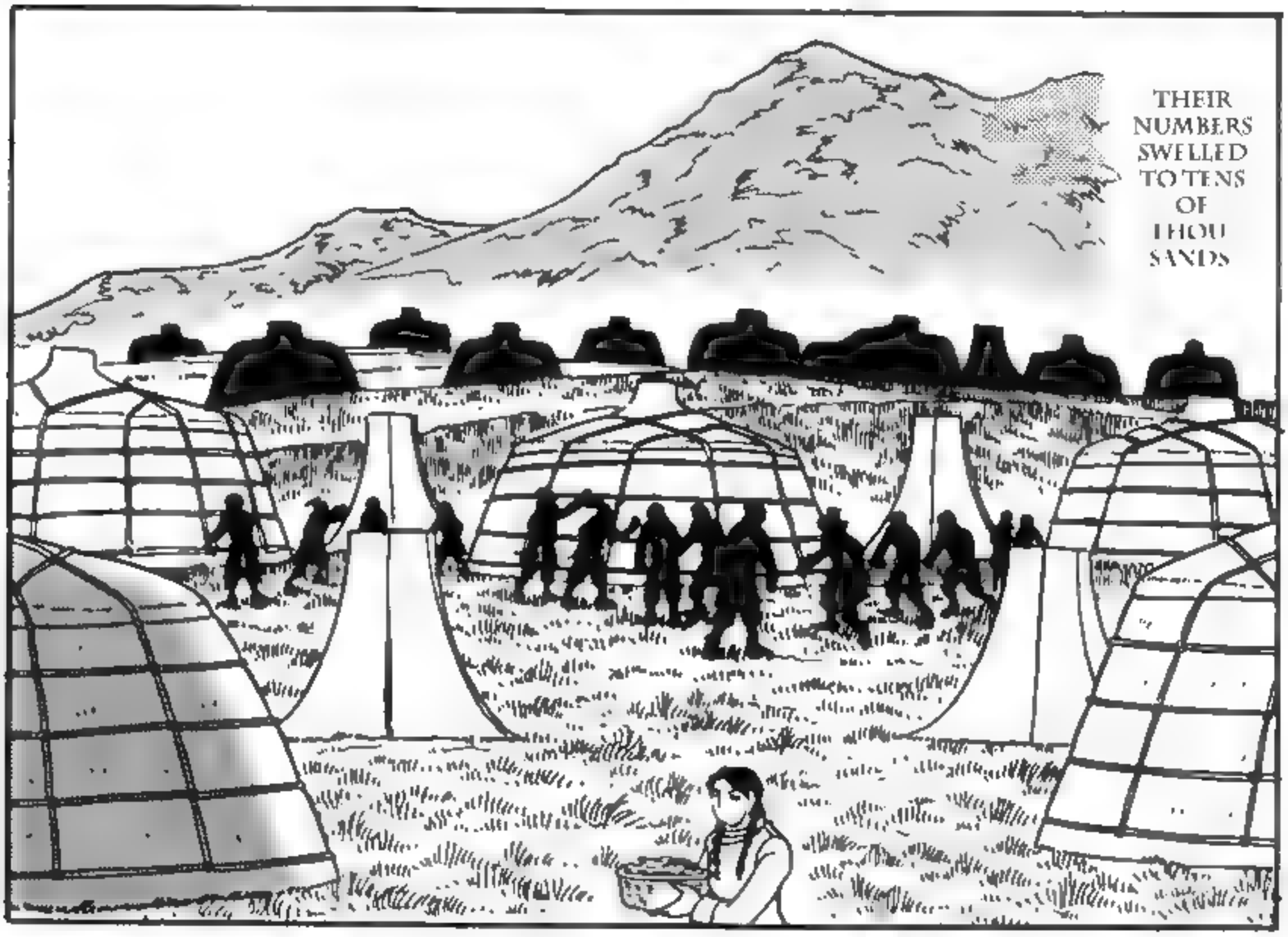
SINCE WE ARE NOT USED TO SEEING WRITTEN WORDS, MANY WILL BE UNABLE TO READ THE LETTER. IT IS YOUR DUTY TO READ IT OUT TO THEM AFTER SHOWING THE DECREE.

THE NAIMAN SCRIBE QUICKLY COMPOSED THE DECREE.

AN ENORMOUS GER WAS ALSO CONSTRUCTED FOR THE SOON TO BE HELD KHURILTAI

AFTER RECEIVING THE MESSAGE, THE TRIBAL CHIEFS OF THE STEPPE ARRIVED ONE BY ONE WITH CELEBRATORY GIFTS


THERE WERE ALSO MANY OTHERS WHO CAME TO ATTEND OR EVEN CATCH A GLIMPSE OF THE CEREMONY


THEIR NUMBERS SWELLED TO TENS OF THOU SANDS

HEAR YE, HEAR YE! WITH THE STEPPE NOW UNITED AS ONE, FROM TODAY FORTH, I DECLARE MYSELF ITS SUPREME LORD! THERE WILL BE NO MORE LOOTING AND RAIDING AMONG THE VARIOUS TRIBES, AND ALL MEN AND WOMEN WILL BE FREE TO ROAM THROUGH THE LANDS NO MATTER WHAT TRIBE THEY BELONG TO! THE ENEMY IS NO LONGER AMONG US, AND SO WE SHALL JOIN HANDS AND POINT OUR SWORDS ONLY AT EXTERNAL THREATS!

I HAVE SOMETHING TO ADDRESS, TEMUCHIN KHAN.

MY SHAMAN, TEB-TENGRI, WHAT DO YOU WISH TO SAY?

OH? WHAT WAS THE MESSAGE?

AFTER PRAYING TO THE HEAVENS, I HAVE RECEIVED A DIVINE MESSAGE.

THE HEAVENS WISH TO BESTOW YOU THE TITLE, "CHINGGIS KHAN."

IT MEANS SUPREME AND STRONG RULER.

CHINGGIS KHAN... WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

VERY WELL! FROM TODAY FORTH, I SHALL BE KNOWN AS CHINGGIS KHAN!

YES.

I SEE... SO THE HEAVENS WISH FOR ME TO ADOPT THIS TITLE?

CHINGGIS KHAN!

CHINGGIS KHAN!

CHINGGIS KHAN!

TEMUCHIN WAS 44 YEARS OLD WHEN HE BECAME CHINGGIS KHAN.

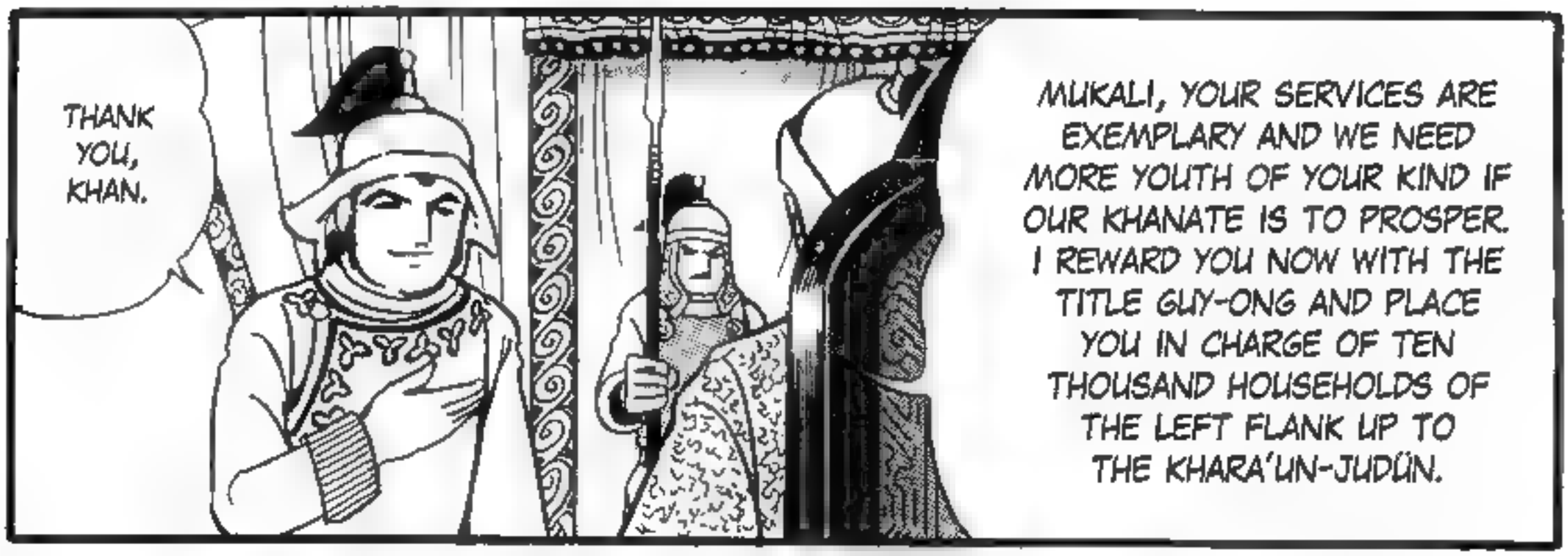
AFTER THE CEREMONY, EACH OF TEMUCHIN'S GENERALS WERE SUMMONED ONE BY ONE TO BE REWARDED FOR ALL THEIR SERVICES IN THE PAST. THE FIRST ONE CALLED WAS BO'ORCHU.

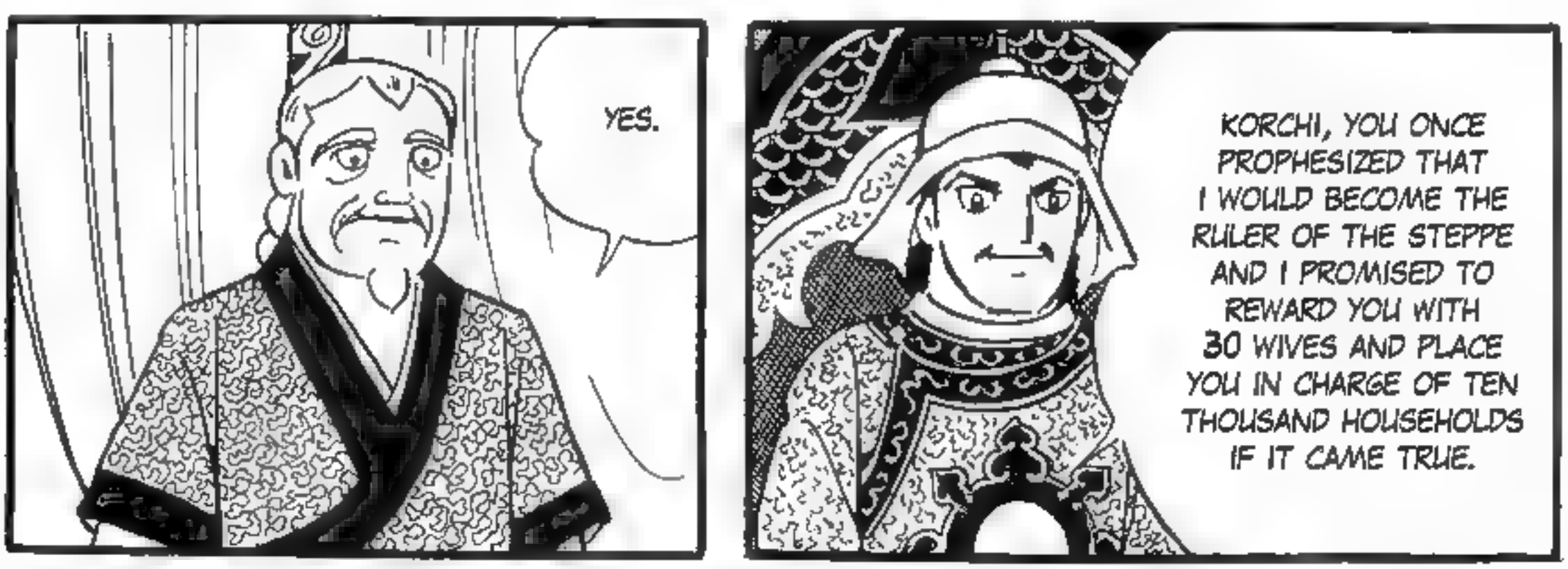
THANK YOU, KHAN.

BO'ORCHU, TIME AND TIME AGAIN, YOU HAVE RISKED EVERYTHING FOR MY SAKE. FOR YOUR MOST LOYAL SERVICE, I LEAVE YOU IN CHARGE OF TEN THOUSAND HOUSEHOLDS OF THE RIGHT FLANK, UP TO THE ALTAI MOUNTAINS.

THE NEXT TO BE CALLED UP WAS MUKALI, A YOUNG LOYAL COMMANDER WHO HAD ACHIEVED MANY NOTABLE MERITS DURING THE NAIMAN CAMPAIGN.

*GUY ONG: VARIANT OF KING


THANK YOU, KHAN.
MUKALI, YOUR SERVICES ARE EXEMPLARY AND WE NEED MORE YOUTH OF YOUR KIND IF OUR KHANATE IS TO PROSPER. I REWARD YOU NOW WITH THE TITLE GUY-ONG AND PLACE YOU IN CHARGE OF TEN THOUSAND HOUSEHOLDS OF THE LEFT FLANK UP TO THE KHARA'UN-JUDÜN.


YES.
KORCHI, YOU ONCE PROPHESIZED THAT I WOULD BECOME THE RULER OF THE STEPPE AND I PROMISED TO REWARD YOU WITH 30 WIVES AND PLACE YOU IN CHARGE OF TEN THOUSAND HOUSEHOLDS IF IT CAME TRUE.

OH, I WOULD ONLY REGAIN MY YOUTH IF I WERE TO BE SURROUNDED BY 30 BEAUTIFUL YOUNG WIVES.
ARE YOU STILL FINE WITH TAKING 30 WIVES AT YOUR CURRENG AGE?

THANK YOU, KHAN.

THEN I WILL UPHOLD MY PROMISE AND GIVE YOU TEN THOUSAND HOUSEHOLDS TO BE SITUATED ALONG THE ERDISH RIVER. YOU MAY HAVE YOUR CHOICE OF WOMEN FROM THE SUBJUGATED TRIBES.

I AM FINE WITH MY CURRENT POSITION, CHINGGIS KHAN. I DO NOT DESIRE FOR ANYTHING MORE.

JELME, I AM ALMOST AT A LOSS AS TO HOW TO REWARD YOU FOR YOUR INVALUABLE SERVICES.

BUT THERE'S NOTHING I CAN THINK OF THAT I WOULD WANT, KHAN.

HMM, BUT THAT WON'T SIT WELL WITH ME.

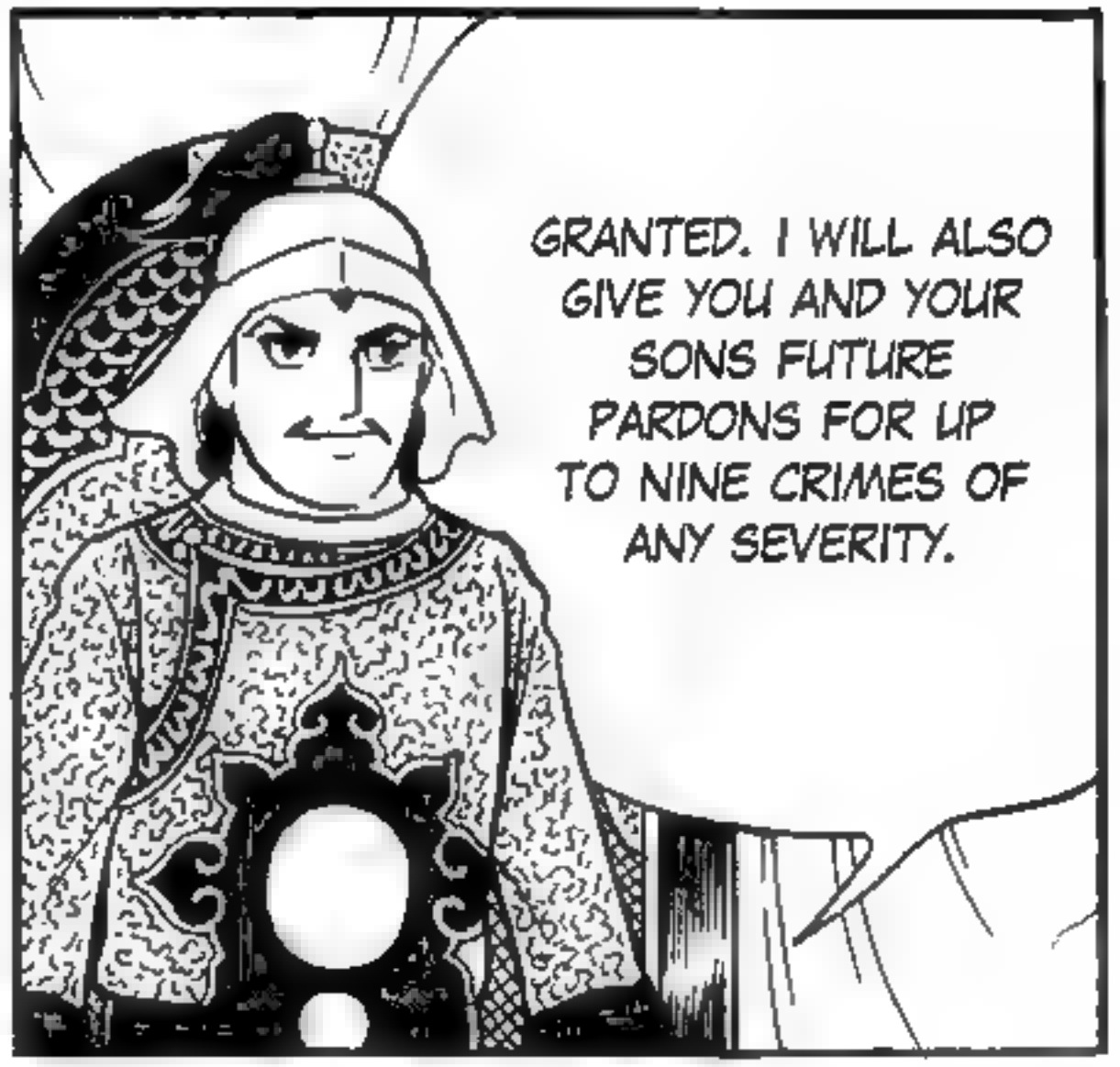
THANK YOU.

THEN HOW ABOUT THIS? YOU WILL BE UNPUNISHABLE FOR UP TO NINE CRIMES OF ANY SEVERITY.

NEXT WAS SORKAN-SHIRA.

IF I MAY BE SO PRESUMPTUOUS, GRANT MY FAMILY AND I THE TRADITIONAL MERKIT LANDS ALONG THE SELENGGE RIVER AND THE PRIVILEGE TO LIVE FREELY WITHOUT PAYING TAXES.

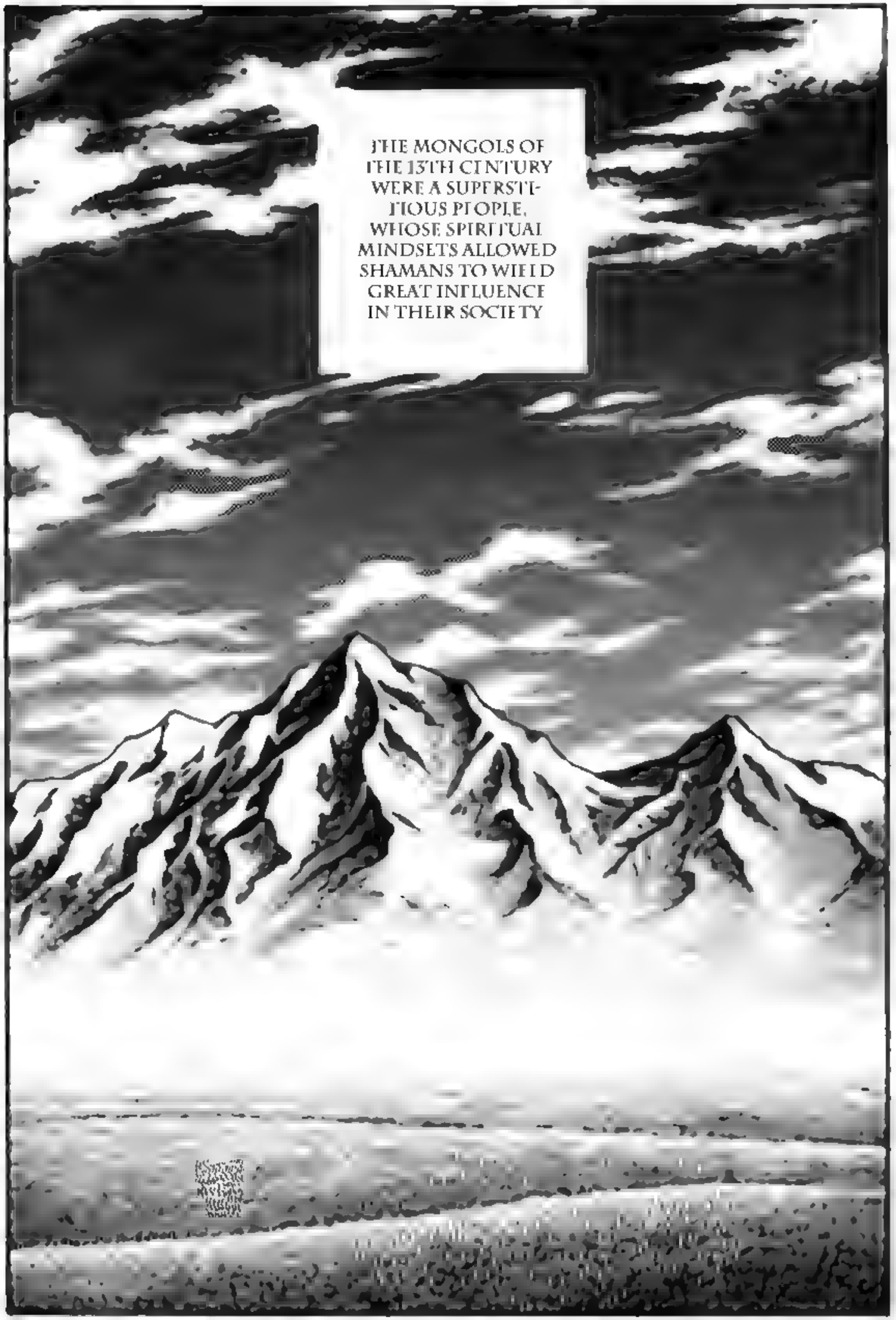
FATHER OF CHIMBAI AND CHILA'UN, YOU AND YOUR SONS RESCUED ME WHEN I WAS ENSLAVED. IT IS TIME FOR ME TO REPAY MY DEBTS SO NAME YOUR REWARD.



AND SO THE PROCESSION CONTINUED, WITH EVERY MAN WHO HAD RENDERED VALUABLE SERVICE TO THE KHAN BEING REWARDED HANDSOMELY.

IT WAS NOT IN CHINGGIS KHAN'S NATURE TO LET A DEBT GO UNPAID

A Mother's Breasts


THE MONGOLS OF THE 13TH CENTURY WERE A SUPERSTITIOUS PEOPLE, WHOSE SPIRITUAL MINDSETS ALLOWED SHAMANS TO WIELD GREAT INFLUENCE IN THEIR SOCIETY

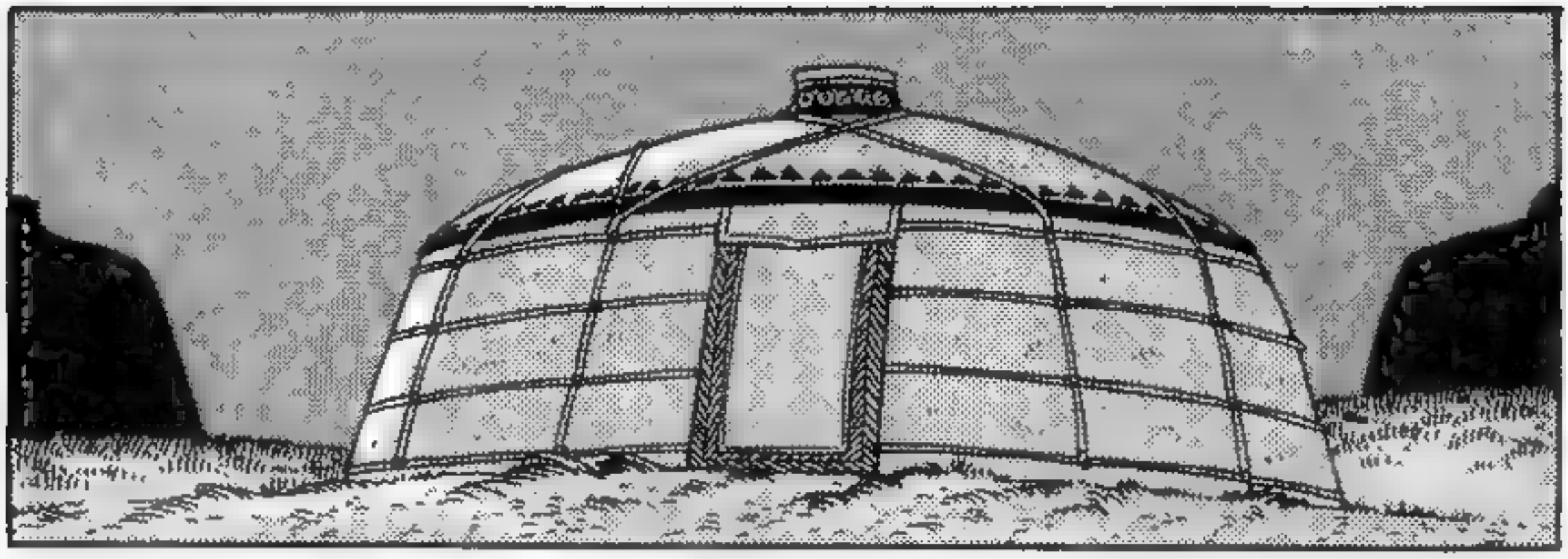
PERHAPS THE READER STILL RECALLS MÖNGLIK. FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT, HE WAS THE YOUTH WHO BROUGHT TEMUCHIN BACK TO HIS FAMILY FROM THE ONGGIRATS AFTER INFORMING HIM OF HIS FATHER'S DEATH.

HE WAS ALSO THE SON OF CHARAKHA, WHO WAS THE LONE PERSON TO STAND UP FOR TEMUCHIN'S FAMILY WHEN TAYICHI'UTS PERSUADED EVERYONE TO ABANDON THEM UNLIKE HIS FATHER, HOWEVER, MÖNGLIK WENT ALONG WITH THE TAYICHI'UTS

WHEN TEMUCHIN BEGAN TO EXPAND HIS INFLUENCE MÖNGLIK AND HIS SEVEN SONS JOINED THE MONGOLS.

"TEB TENGRI" HIGHEST SHAMANIST TITLE WHICH LITERALLY MEANT "ALL HEAVENLY"

AMONG MÖNGLIK'S SEVEN SONS, THE FOURTH WAS KÖKÖCHU, WHO WAS BETTER KNOWN BY HIS TITLE "TEB-TENGRI." HE WAS THE SAME SHAMAN WHO GAVE TEMUCHIN THE TITLE, CHINGGIS KHAN
AS ONE WHO COULD COMMUNICATE WITH THE HEAVENS, HE USED HIS POSITION TO BECAME THE MOST INFLUENTIAL MAN AFTER CHINGGIS KHAN.
HOWEVER, HE WAS NOT ENTIRELY TRUSTED BY CHINGGIS KHAN AND FOR MANY YEARS, HAD BEEN OF SECONDARY RANK TO A MORE SENIOR SHAMAN. FOR THIS, THE AMBITIOUS SHAMAN TOOK DEEP OFFENSE.



I AM ONE WHO COMMUNES WITH THE HEAVENS, AND WHOSE MOUTH CONVEYS THE DIRECT WILL OF THE GODS. YET CHINGGIS KHAN STILL UNDERESTIMATES MY IMPORTANCE AND TREATS ME LESS IMPORTANTLY THAN MANY OF HIS COMMANDERS.

WITH THE STEPPE UNITED AS ONE, EVEN CHINGGIS KHAN'S ROLE HAS COME TO AN END. IF HE DOES NOT VALUE MY IMPORTANCE, THAN LET US ARRANGE IT SO THAT ANOTHER MAN WITH A MORE FAVOURABLE DISPOSITION IS ELECTED AS KHAN.

LET US DESTROY THE UNITY THAT HE VALUES SO MUCH, STARTING WITH HIS BOND WITH HIS BROTHERS.

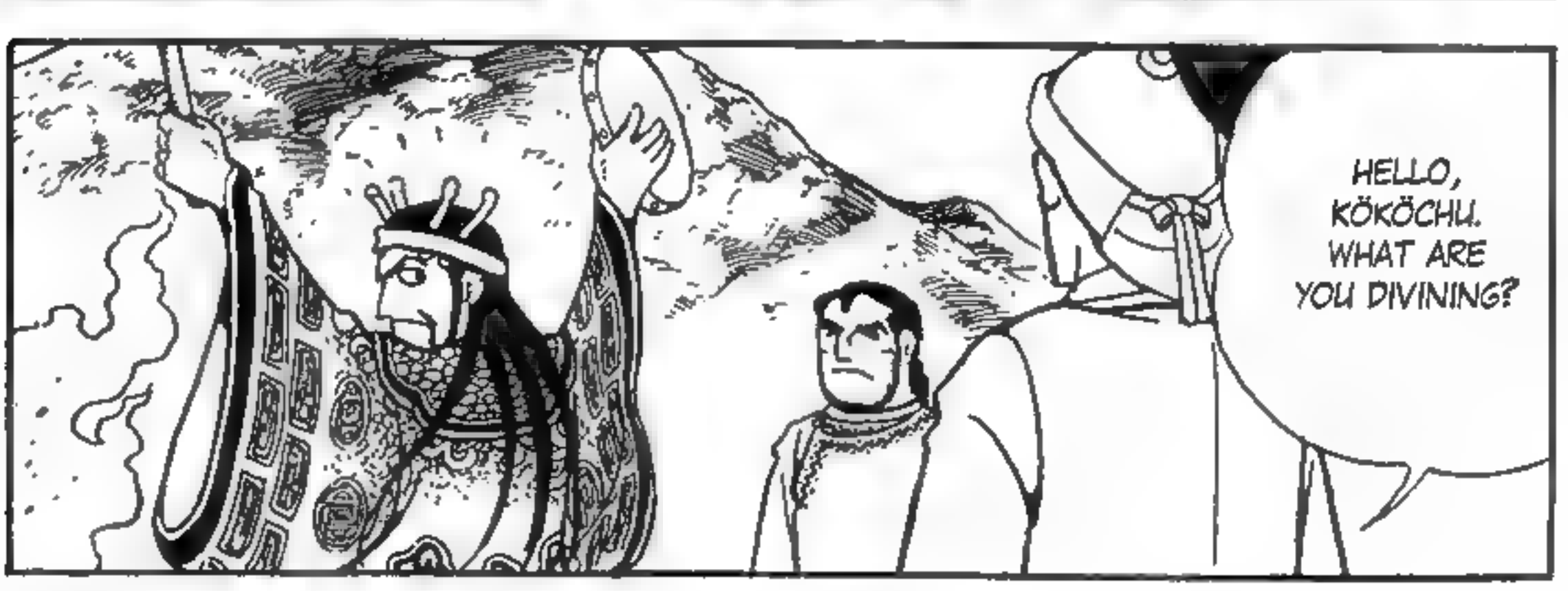
BUT HOW?

THE STEPPE HAS ONLY RECENTLY BEEN UNITED, AND MANY TRIBAL CHIEFS ARE LIKELY TO STILL HARBOUR RESENTMENT TOWARDS HIS RADICAL CHANGES AND ATTEMPTS TO BREAK DOWN THE TRADITIONAL ARISTOCRATIC AND TRIBALISTIC ORDERS.

HMM... YES, THAT'S A GOOD PLAN.

WE WILL FIRST MAKE TEMUCHIN DISTRUST HIS BROTHERS. WHEN HE LOSES THE SUPPORT OF HIS BROTHERS, WE WILL THEN SECRETLY FORM AN ANTI-CHINGGIS FACTION. THE STRONGEST SUPPORTER WE CAN FIND TO JOIN THIS CAUSE WILL BE THE NATURAL CANDIDATE TO ELECT AS KHAN. WITH MY ABILITY TO CONVEY HEAVEN'S WILL, NO CHIEF WILL DARE DISPUTE MY DIVINE PROCLAMATION IN NAMING HIM KHAN.

ARAAAAJAAA
HAAARA
JAAAARAAA!


HELLO,
KÖKÖCHU.
WHAT ARE
YOU DIVINING?

WHAT!?

YOU VULGAR BRUTE!

N-NO! I MEANT NO DISRESPECT-

I AM A MESSENGER OF THE HEAVENS! HOW DARE YOU NOT ADDRESS ME BY MY TITLE AS YOU WOULD TO SOME SLAVE! BY DISRESPECTING ME, YOU ALSO DISRESPECT THE GODS! I WILL NOT FORGIVE YOU, KASAR, EVEN IF YOU ARE THE KHAN'S BROTHER!

SILENCE! I WANT THIS MAN BEATEN HERE ON THE SPOT!

DISRESPECTING THE GODS WILL SUMMON DIVINE WRATH UPON THIS REALM, FROM WHICH NO MORTAL CAN ESCAPE!

YOU BLASPHEMOUS SCOUNDREL!

I WILL NOW LET YOU OFF FOR TODAY, BUT DO NOT DARE MAKE LIGHT OF THE GODS A SECOND TIME.

YES, AND EVEN IF ONE OF THEM IS THE SHAMAN TEB-TENGRI, THEY ARE OUT OF LINE TO DARE LAY A HAND ON MY KHAN'S OWN BLOOD RELATIVE! I CALL FOR YOU TO HAND DOWN AN APPROPRIATE PUNISHMENT.

YOU WERE BEATEN BY MÖNGLIK'S SONS?

BUT TO HIT BACK AT A SHAMAN IS...

KASAR, HAVE YOU NOT OFTEN PROUDLY CLAIMED THAT NO ONE COULD GET THE BEST OF YOU? AS A FIRM AND STOUT WARRIOR, HOW COULD YOU JUST LET YOURSELF GET BEATEN?

ENOUGH EXCUSES! THE ONLY SHAMAN WAS TEB-TENGRI! HIS BROTHERS WERE COMMON MEN, AND YET YOU STILL ALLOWED YOURSELF TO BE BEATEN BY THEM! HAVE YOU NO SHAME THAT YOU COULD NOT EVEN DEFEND YOURSELF!?

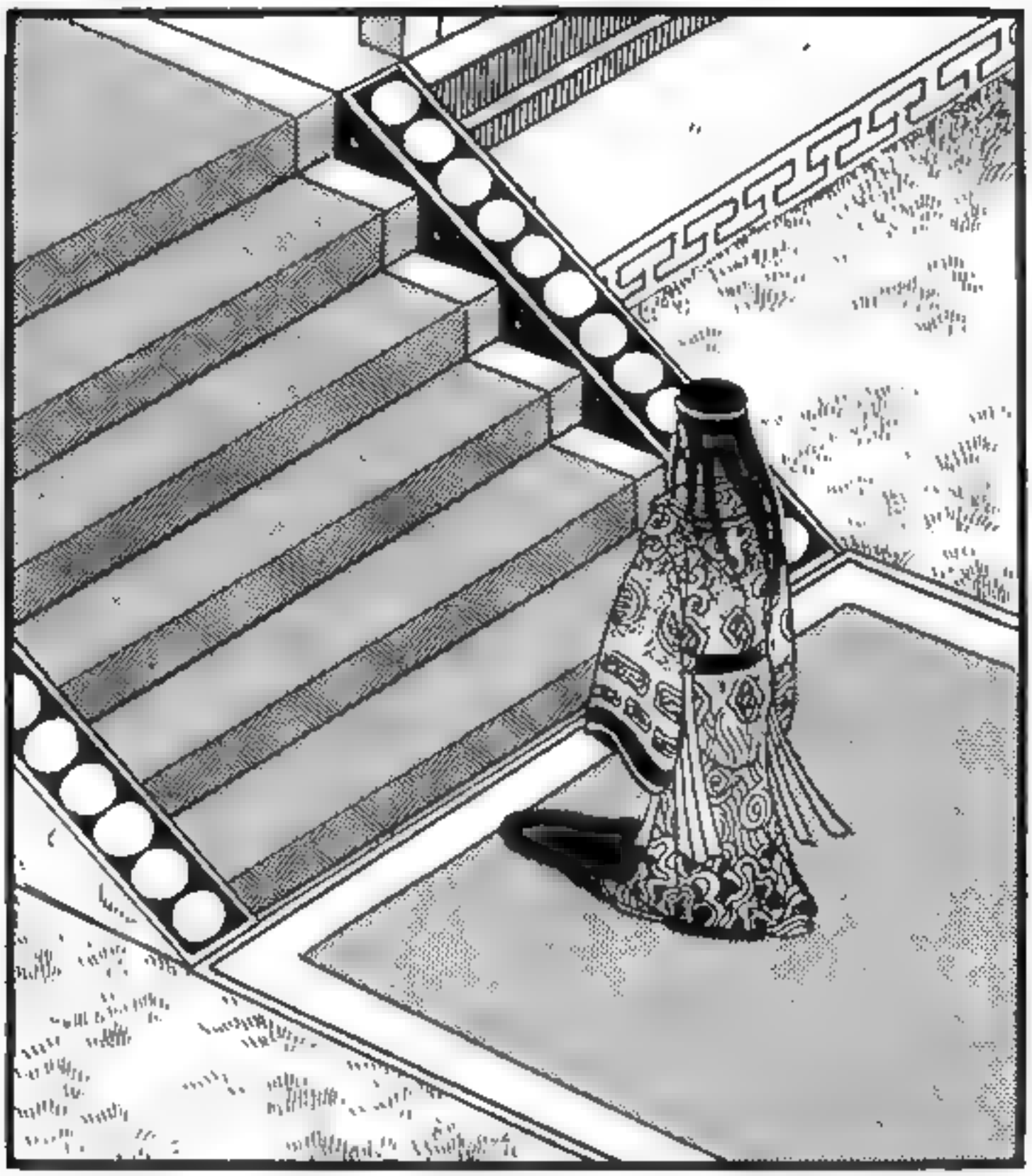
YES, BROTHER....

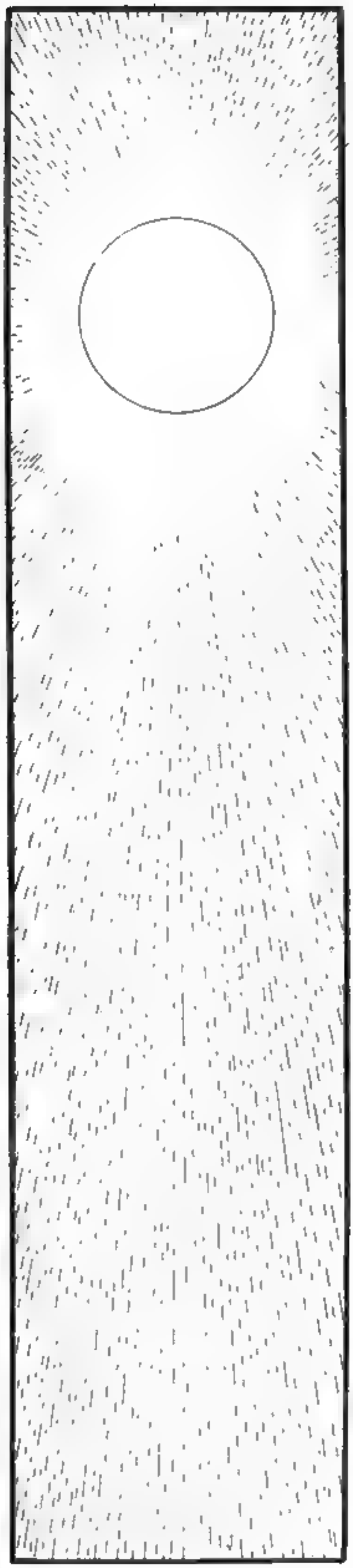
DO NOT EXPECT ME TO COVER UP AFTER YOUR OWN FAILURES!

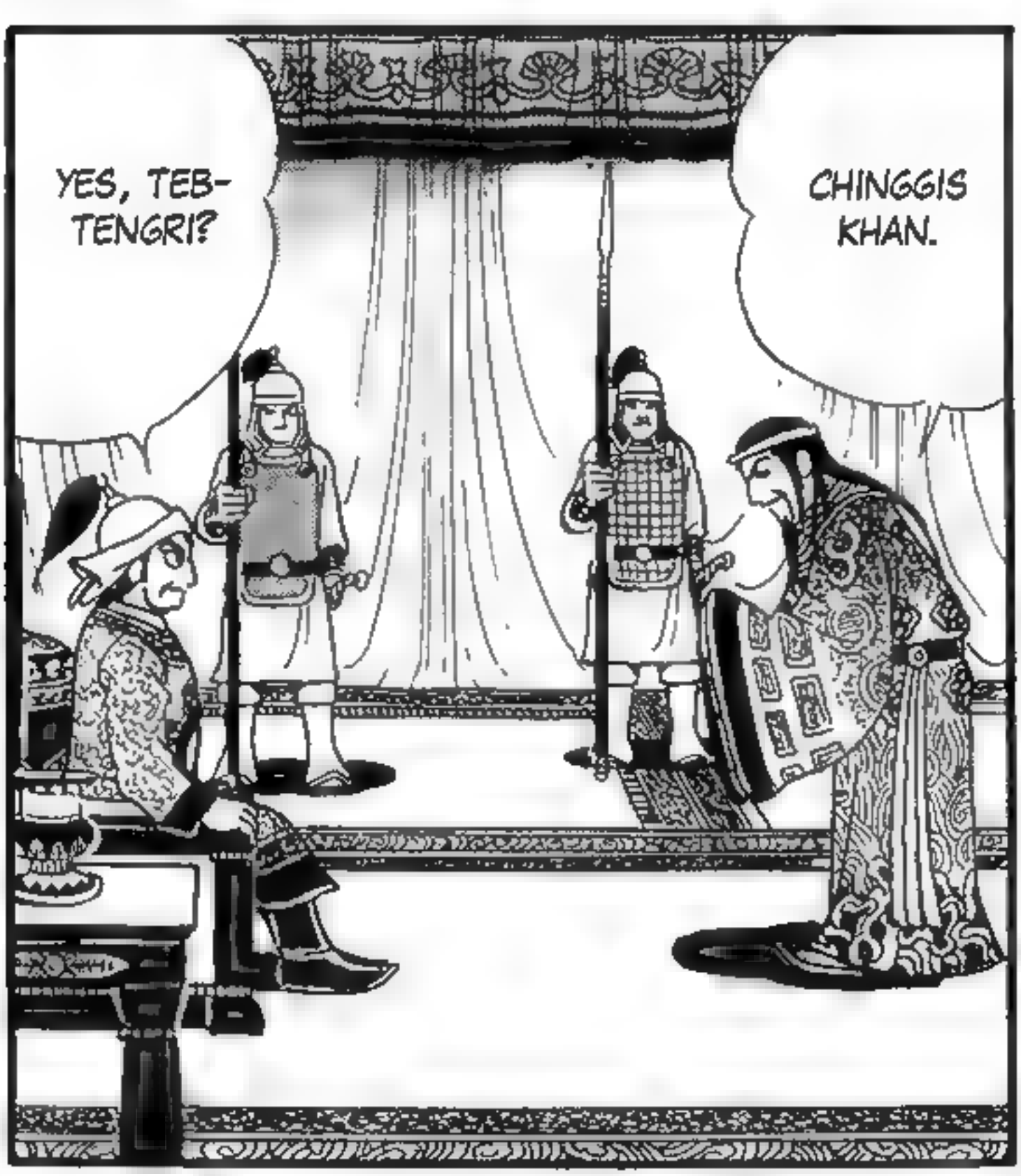
YES, AND KASAR WAS SO DISTRESSED BY IT THAT HE HAS NOT BOTHERED TO SEE THE KHAN SINCE, WHILE HE DRINKS TO CLEAR HIS TEMPER.

CHINGGIS KHAN DIDN'T EVEN BOTHER TO CONSIDER KASAR'S GRIEVANCES?

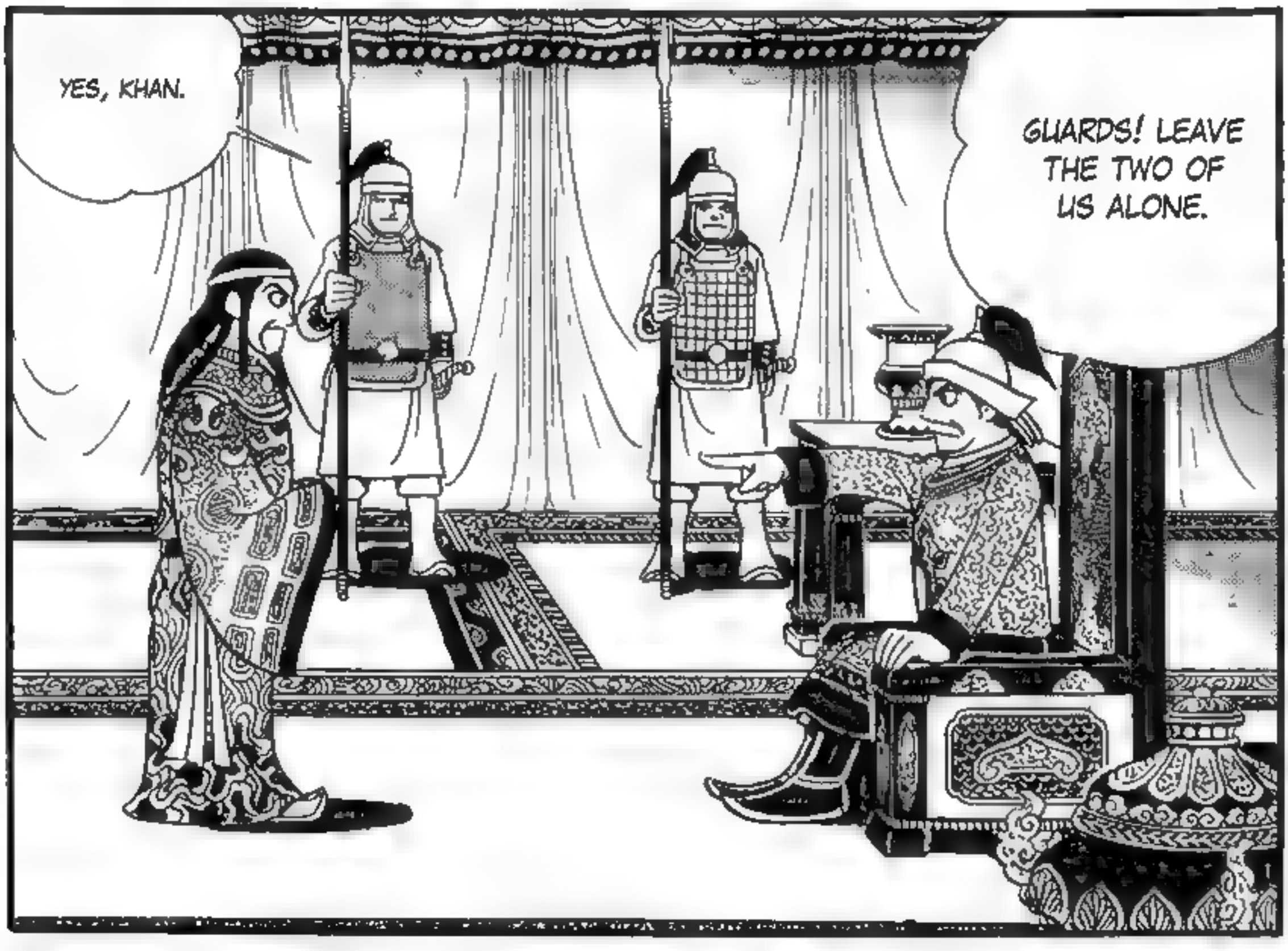
THINGS ARE GETTING INTERESTING. ANOTHER PUSH AND I MAY ALREADY HAVE HIS FAMILY FRACTURED...

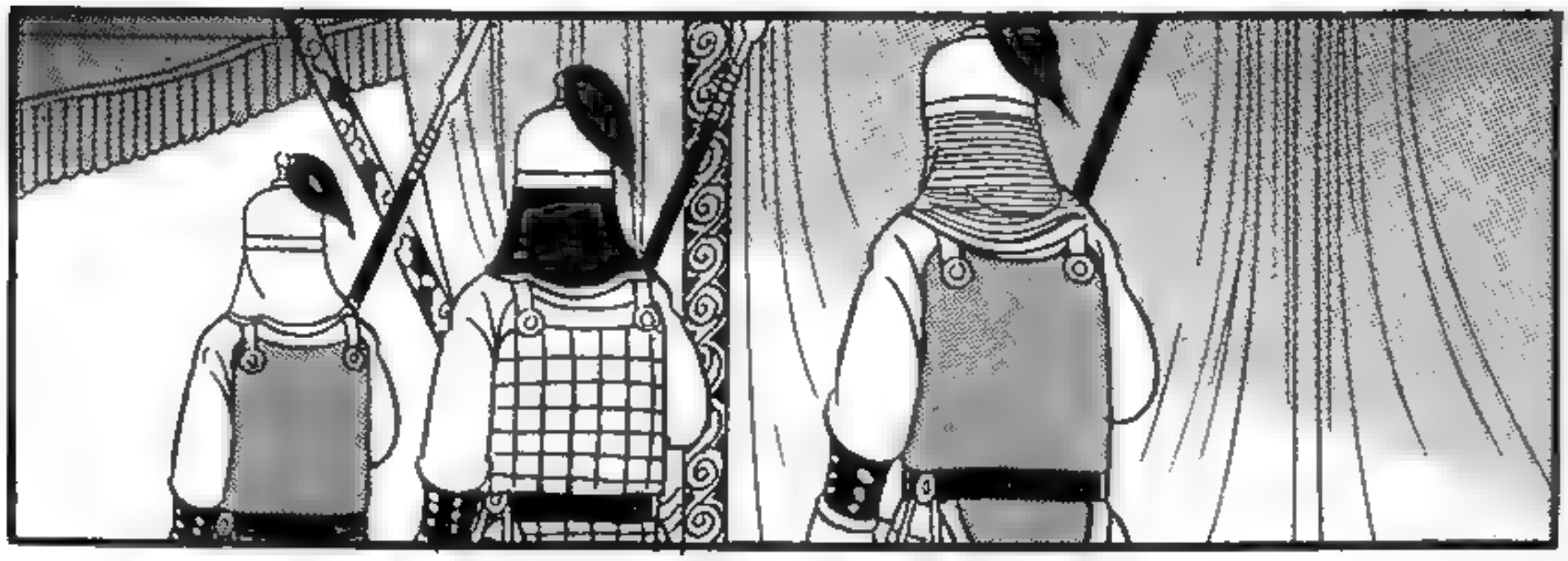





YES, TEB-TENGRI?
CHINGGIS KHAN.

THERE IS A RATHER CONFIDENTIAL MESSAGE FROM THE HEAVENS THAT I THOUGHT WOULD BE BEST TO DISCLOSE TO YOU, BUT...


YES, KHAN.
GUARDS! LEAVE THE TWO OF US ALONE.



OF COURSE.

THE GUARDS ARE GONE. NOW TELL ME ABOUT THIS DIVINE MESSAGE.

THE REALM SEIZED BY KASAR'S HANDS...!?

AS YOU ALREADY KNOW, THE HEAVENS HAVE PROPHECIZED IN THE PAST THAT YOU WOULD HOLD ALL OF THE STEPPE IN YOUR HANDS, BUT AT ANOTHER TIME, IT HAS ALSO PROPH-ECIZED THE SAME ABOUT KASAR... WHO KNOWS WHAT MAY HAPPEN IF YOU DO NOT ANTICIPATE KASAR'S ACTIONS...?

THE GODS HAVE ALSO STATED THAT YOU MAY DISCOVER KASAR'S TRUE NATURE IF YOU VISIT HIS GER TODAY...

BUT AN ACCUSATION AS SERIOUS AS THAT REQUIRES A LITTLE MORE PROOF FOR ONE TO TAKE SERIOUSLY...

I PRAY MY KHAN TAKES CARE.

VERY WELL, I WILL DO AS THE GODS INSTRUCT.

COULD KASAR REALLY BE PLANNING TO USURP ME...?

ACCOMPANIED BY A FEW BODYGUARDS TEMUCHIN QUICKLY RODE FOR KASAR'S CAMPS

AHAHAHA!

AHAHAHA!

IS HE HAVING SOME SORT OF FEAST?

HAHAHA! THAT WAS A MOST ENJOYABLE BANQUET!

NO NEED TO THANK ME. THE PLEASURE IS MINE.

THANK YOU FOR INVITING US, KASAR. ALL OF US TRULY HAD A WONDERFUL TIME.

YES, LET US FEAST AGAIN ANOTHER TIME.

ALLOW US TO TAKE OUR LEAVE, KASAR.

SO HE NOT ONLY FOSTERS FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE TRIBAL CHIEFS FOR SUPPORT BUT HE ALSO DESIRES MY WIVES...?

AREN'T THOSE MY WIVES...?

I'VE SEEN ENOUGH! LET US RETURN!

KASAR!? AS IN MY KHAN'S YOUNGER BROTHER...!?

ARREST KASAR AND BRING HIM BEFORE ME AT ONCE!

YES, KHAN.

YOU HEARD ME RIGHT!

LIKE THOSE BEFORE HIM, NOW THAT HE OBTAINED ABSOLUTE POWER, CHINGGIS KHAN COULD NOT HELP BUT SUSPECT POSSIBLE USURPERS.

KASAR! DO YOU CONFESS THAT YOU WERE CONSPIRING TO USURP MY THRONE!?

THEN WHY HAVE YOU NOT MADE YOUR DAILY APPEARANCE BEFORE ME FOR THE PAST FEW DAYS!?

THIS IS ABSURD! WHAT HAS CAUSED YOU TO ACCUSE ME!?

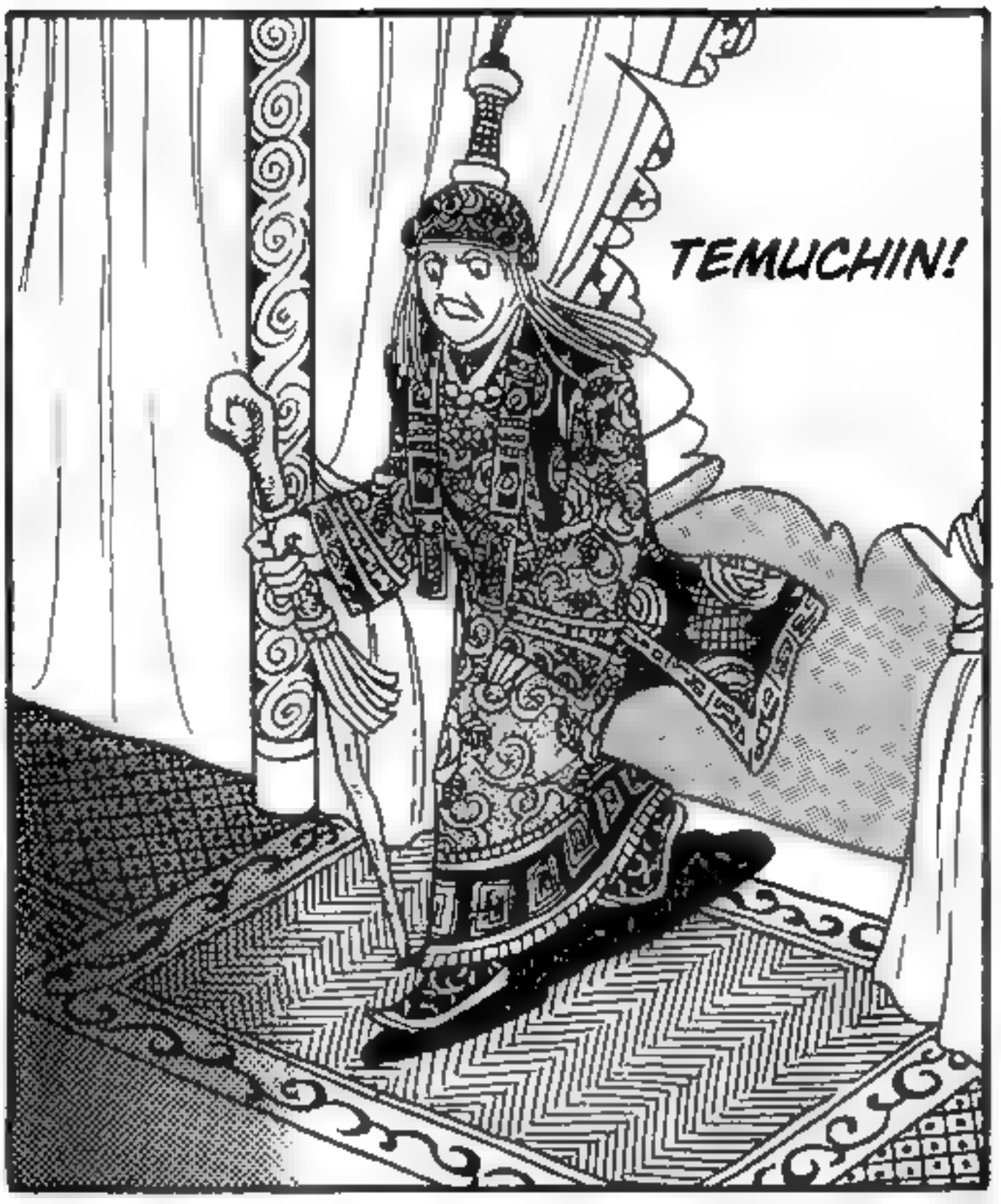
THERE WAS NO SINISTER REASON FOR ANY OF THAT. I MERELY WISHED TO CLEAR MY STRESS BY HAVING FUN WITH OTHERS!

AND WHAT OF YOUR BANQUETS WITH POWERFUL TRIBAL CHIEFS AND MY WIVES!?

THAT WAS BECAUSE I WAS FRUSTRATED OVER THE INCIDENT WITH TEB-TENGRI!

IF YOU CANNOT TRUST ME, THEN WHAT IS THE POINT OF QUESTIONING ME IN THE FIRST PLACE!?

DO YOU THINK YOU CAN FOOL ME WITH SUCH WORDS!? I HAVE SEEN MY OWN ANDA JAMUKA AND MY ADOPTIVE FATHER BETRAY ME! SO DO NOT THINK THAT I AM SO NAIVE TO UTTERLY TRUST EVEN MY OWN BROTHERS!


TEMUCHIN!

MOTHER!

BUT MOTHER, HE...
YOU DARE QUARREL WITH YOUR OWN BLOOD-RELATED BROTHER!?

BUT THERE'S A REASON FOR ALL OF THIS...

I CANNOT DESCRIBE THE SHEER SHOCK I HAD WHEN I HEARD YOU WERE ACCUSING YOUR YOUNGER BROTHER OF CONSPIRING AGAINST YOU!

TAKE A CLOSE LOOK AT THESE SAGGING BREASTS OF MINE!

SILENCE!

YOU MAY BE CHINGGIS KHAN NOW BUT I AM STILL YOUR MOTHER!

WHEN YOU AND YOUR BROTHERS WERE BUT HELPLESS INFANTS, YOU ALL SUCKED THE MILK FROM THESE TEATS! YOU SUCKED MY RIGHT BREAST AND KASAR SUCKED THE LEFT! YOU ARE BROTHERS WHO'VE SHARED THE SAME BLOOD AND BOSOM!

HAVE YOU ALREADY FORGOTTEN OUR DARK DAYS WHEN WE WERE ABANDONED BY ALL!? WHEN YOU BICKERED WITH BEKHTER OVER WHO WOULD BE THE HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD, WHO WAS IT THAT FOLLOWED YOUR HEINOUS ORDER TO MURDER BEKHTER!?

JUST WHAT PROOF DO YOU HAVE OF KASAR'S SUPPOSED CRIME!? OR IS THAT YOU HAVE NO MORE NEED FOR HIM, NOW THAT YOU THINK YOU HAVE DEFEATED ALL YOUR ENEMIES!?

YES, MOTHER...

KASAR! YOU TOO SHOULD TAKE CARE TO NOT GET YOURSELF INVOLVED IN ANY ACTIVITY THAT CAN DRAW YOUR BROTHER'S SUSPICIONS! THE TWO OF YOU MUST WORK TOGETHER IF THIS NEWLY UNIFIED REALM IS TO MAINTAIN ITSELF!

OF COURSE YOU SHOULD!

I... I'M SORRY, MOTHER. I WILL LET KASAR GO.

I WILL TAKE MY LEAVE THEN.

KASAR, I AM SETTING YOU FREE ONLY BECAUSE I DO NOT WISH TO UPSET OUR MOTHER.

MY SUSPICIONS TOWARDS YOU HAVE NOT FULLY CLEARED YET.

OF THE 9000 HOUSEHOLDS I HAVE GIVEN YOU FOR YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE NAIMAN CONQUEST, I WILL CONFISCATE ALL BUT 1400!

IF THAT WILL CLEAR YOUR DOUBTS, THEN SO BE IT, BROTHER.

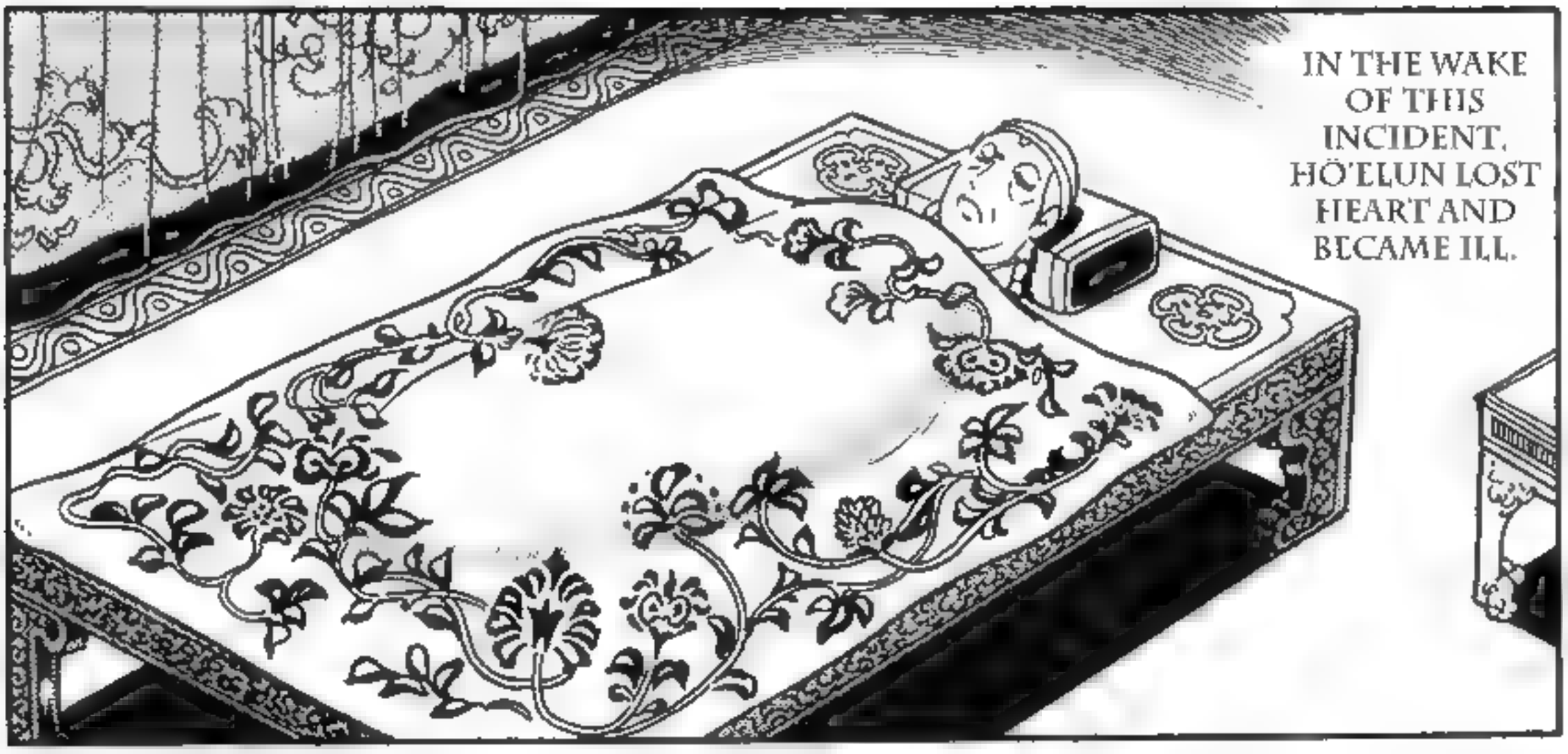
WITH ONLY 1400 HOUSEHOLDS, KASAR DID NOT POSSESS THE NUMBERS TO DRAW ANY SIZEABLE MILITARY FORCE ANYMORE. CHINGGIS KHAN HAD EFFECTIVELY CLIPPED KASAR'S WINGS WITH THIS CONFISCATION.

WHAT!? HE TOOK AWAY KASAR'S PEOPLE!?

UNFORTUNATELY SO... CHINGGIS KHAN STILL HARBOURS SUSPICION TOWARDS KASAR.

OH, HOW I LONG FOR OUR IMPOVERISHED DAYS WHEN MY SONS AT LEAST WORKED TOGETHER IN HARMONY, COMPARED TO THE DISTRUST THEY HAVE NOW IN SPITE OF ALL OUR RICHES...

TO SEE MY OWN SON IMPOVERISHED BEFORE MY EYES AND BE POWERLESS TO STOP IT...


IN THE WAKE OF THIS INCIDENT, HÖ'ELUN LOST HEART AND BECAME ILL.

MEANWHILE, TEB-TENGRI AND HIS BROTHERS FEASTED IN DELIGHT AT THE SUCCESS OF THEIR PLANS..

Death of a Shaman

AS TEB-TENGRI'S INFLUENCE GREW BY DAY, THOSE WHO KNEW JUST HOW QUICKLY THE WIND COULD CHANGE DIRECTIONS IN THE STEPPE GATHERED TO HIS SIDE AND BEGAN TO COURT HIS FAVOUR.

AFTER ALL, A GOOD STANDING WITH ONE'S LORD COULD ONLY GUARANTEE A MAN A COMFORTABLE LIFE IN THIS WORLD, BUT A GOOD STANDING WITH A SHAMAN COULD EARN THEM ETERNAL BLISS IN THE AFTERWORLD AS WELL.

GER OF TEMUGE, CHINGGIS KHAN'S YOUNGEST BROTHER

IF THIS CONTINUES, YOU'LL LOSE ALL OF YOUR FOLLOWERS, SIR.

WHAT, MORE AND MORE OF MY TRIBESMEN HAVE BEEN DESERTING ME?

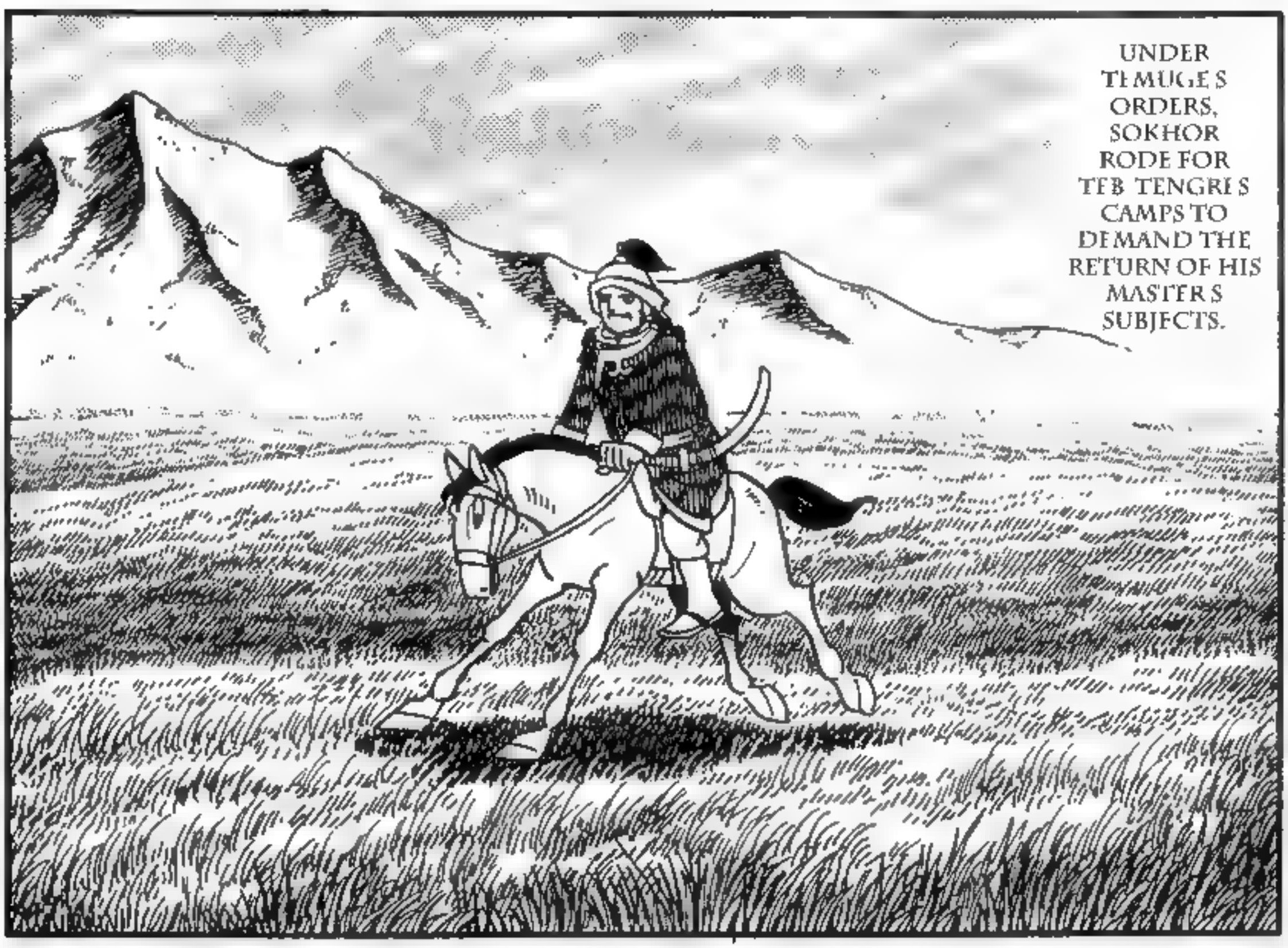
TEB-TENGRI, OF COURSE.

WHO ARE THEY DESERTING ME FOR?

SO THEY DON'T EVEN HAVE THE SLIGHTEST CONCERN FOR THEIR OWN MASTER?

THEY ALL WISH TO GAIN DIVINE FAVOUR.

YES, SIR.
GO AND DEMAND TEB-TENGRI TO RETURN MY PEOPLE TO ME AT ONCE.


UNDER TEMUGE'S ORDERS, SOKHOR RODE FOR TEB TENGRI'S CAMPS TO DEMAND THE RETURN OF HIS MASTER'S SUBJECTS.

YOU DEMAND THEIR RETURN!?

I AM NO THIEF! I DID NOT SNEAK INTO YOUR MASTER'S CAMPS AND SNATCH THEM AWAY! THOSE MEN AND WOMEN HAVE COME BY THEIR OWN VOLITION FOR THEIR DESIRE TO BE CLOSER TO THE GODS!

WHIP THIS BLAS-PHEMOUS SINNER!

HOW DARE YOU DEMAND THE PIOUS TO TURN THEIR BACKS ON THE GODS!

AGHH!

Y-YES, SIR...

I WILL LET YOU OFF LIGHTLY FOR NOW BUT TELL YOUR MASTER TO SEE ME HIMSELF IF HE STILL TAKES ISSUE!

TEB-TENGRI HAD ME WHIPPED AND EVEN TOOK MY HORSE FROM ME. HE SAYS IF YOU TAKE ISSUE WITH YOUR PEOPLE GOING OVER TO HIM, YOU SHOULD COME TALK TO HIM PERSONALLY.

W-WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU, SOKHOR!?

TEMUGE QUICKLY RUSHED TOWARDS TEB-TENGRI'S CAMPS.

FINE, I'LL DEAL WITH THIS MYSELF THEN.

YOUR PEOPLE WILLINGLY CAME TO ME, AND INSTEAD OF PONDERING WHETHER YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT, YOU ARROGANTLY SEND YOUR MESSENGER TO DEMAND THEM BACK, AS IF I'M SOME CROOK WHO STOLE THEM! AND EVEN AFTER VISITING ME IN PERSON, THE FIRST THING YOU DO IS NOT APOLOGIZE, BUT REPEAT YOUR DEMANDS!?

YOU WHIPPED MY SERVANT AND EVEN TOOK AWAY HIS HORSE SO THAT HE HAD TO WALK ALL THE WAY BACK TO MY CAMP. BUT NOW THAT I HAVE COME IN PERSON, WILL YOU RETURN MY PEOPLE TO ME?

TALK IS CHEAP. IF YOU TRULY REGRET IT, YOU MUST SHOW IT THROUGH ACTION.

ALRIGHT, I ADMIT I MADE A MISTAKE IN SENDING OFF A MESSENGER TO MAKE SUCH FORCEFUL DEMANDS.

PRESS MY FACE TO YOUR WHAT!?

SINCE I AM THE MESSENGER OF THE GODS, YOU SHOULD PRESS YOUR FACE TO MY REAR TO EXPRESS YOUR HUMILITY BEFORE THE GODS.

I MADE A GRAVE ERROR IN OFFENDING THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GODS. NOW THAT I AM HUMBLED ON MY KNEES, I APPEAL TO YOUR GRACE AND ASK FOR THE RETURN OF MY PEOPLE.

SO YOU WILL NOT REPENT YOUR SINS?

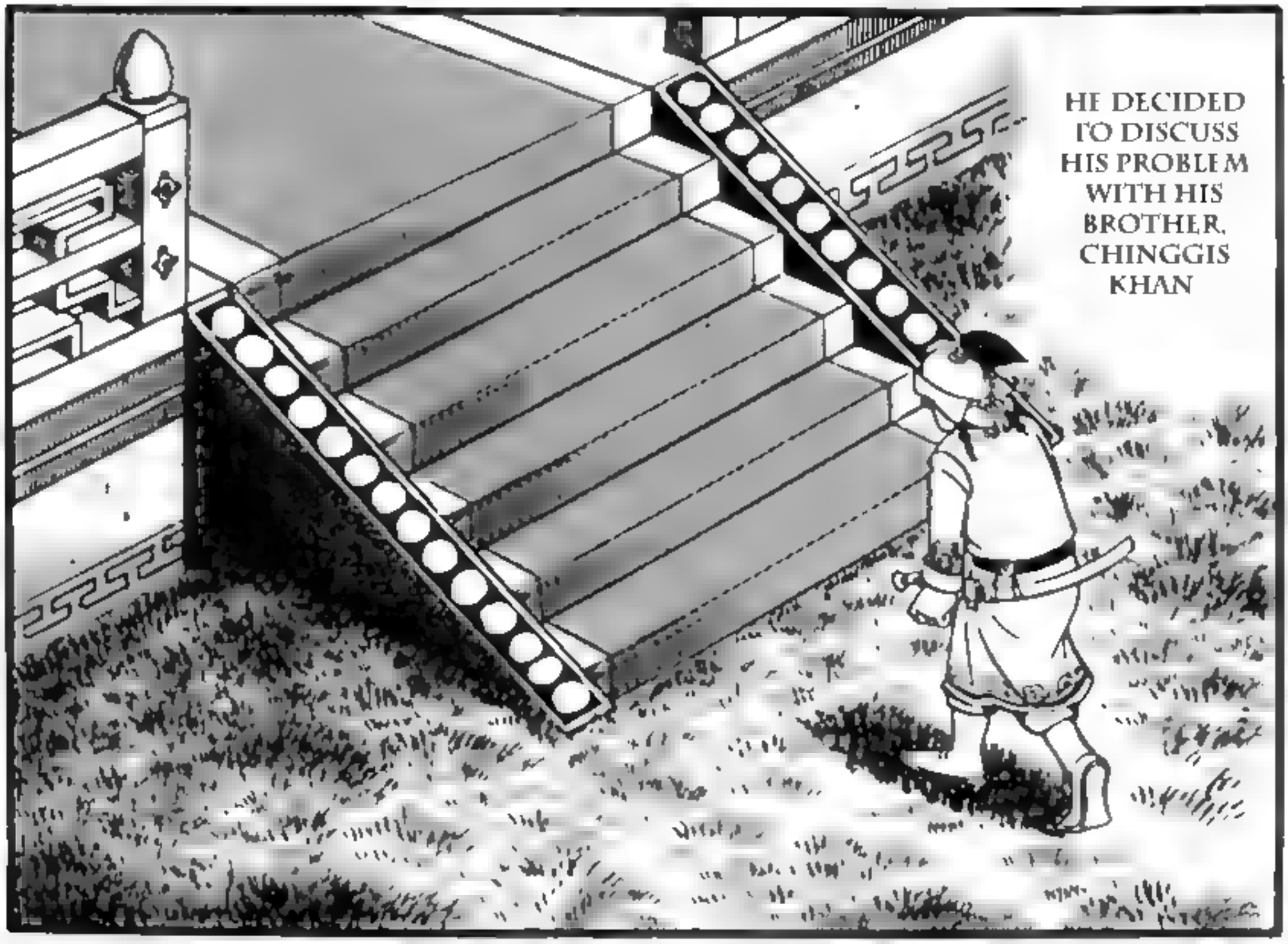
I... NO, NEVER MIND. VERY WELL.

B-BUT WHEN WILL THAT BE?

APOLOGY ACCEPTED, BUT I DO NOT KNOW IF YOUR PEOPLE SHOULD BE RETURNED TO YOU. THAT IS FOR THE GODS TO DECIDE.

YOU FOOL! THE GODS ARE NOT YOUR SERVANTS, EVER PRESENT TO CARRY OUT YOUR IMMEDIATE WISHES! THEY WILL DECIDE WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT! NOW WITHDRAW!

TEMUGE WITHDREW. WEEPING TEARS OF FRUSTRA-TION.


HE DECIDED TO DISCUSS HIS PROBLEM WITH HIS BROTHER, CHINGGIS KHAN

Y-YES...

HE FORCED YOU TO PRESS YOUR FACE AGAINST HIS REAR!?

THIS SHAMAN CLEARLY IS NOT AFRAID OF YOUR AUTHORITY ANYMORE, DEAR... IF HE IS BOLD ENOUGH TO DO THIS TO YOUR PROUD AND STRONG BROTHERS WHILE YOU ARE ALIVE, JUST HOW WILL OUR CHILDREN FARE...?

FIRST HE WHIPS KASAR, AND NOW HE HUMILIATES TEMUGE... JUST WHAT REASON DOES HE HAVE TO BRING SUCH SHAME UPON YOUR BROTHERS?

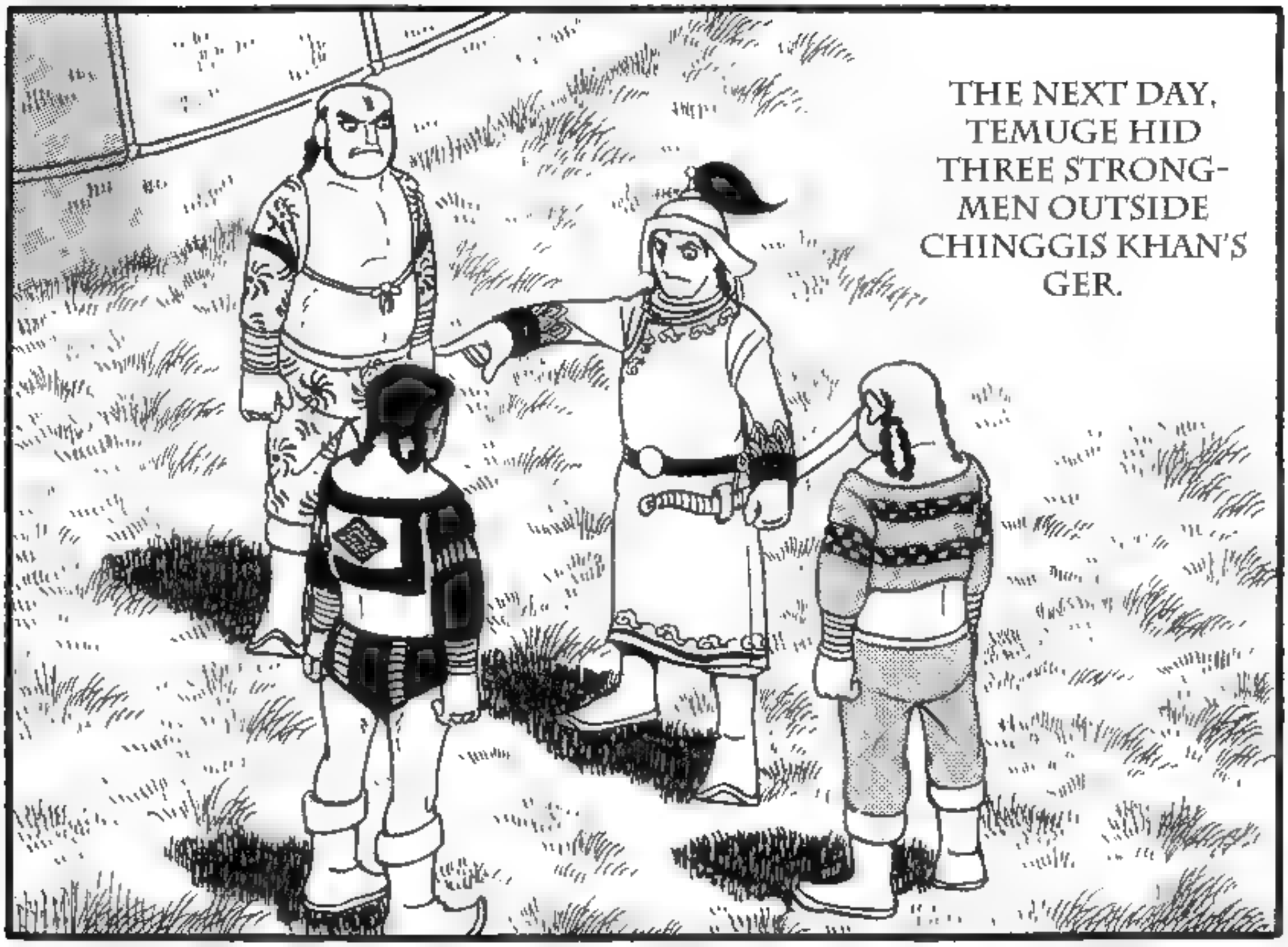
YES, I WILL STAND BY YOUR ACTIONS.

YOU'RE ENTRUSTING THEIR PUNISHMENT TO ME, BROTHER!?

TEMUGE. BRING MÖNGLIK AND HIS SONS TO ME TOMORROW. YOU MAY DECIDE ON HOW TO PUNISH THEM.

THANK YOU, BROTHER. I THOUGHT I WOULD DIE OF SHAME.

HIS ACCUSATION OF KASAR MUST HAVE BEEN ANOTHER TRICK OF HIS TO WEAKEN MY FAMILY. I'VE MADE A TERRIBLE MISTAKE...


THE NEXT DAY, TEMUGE HID THREE STRONG-MEN OUTSIDE CHINGGIS KHAN'S GER.

CHINGGIS KHAN AND TEMUGE THEN AWAITED MÖNGLIK AND HIS SONS TO ARRIVE.

BEFORE LONG, THEY ARRIVED AT THE KHAN'S CAMPS.

AND SWAGGERED INSIDE THE KHAN'S GER WITH NO SIGN OF DEFERENCE.

GOOD DAY, CHINGGIS KHAN. I HOPE YOU ARE WELL TODAY.

FOR MAKING A FOOL OUT OF ME YESTERDAY, I CHALLENGE YOU TO A TEST OF STRENGTH!

TEB-TENGRI!

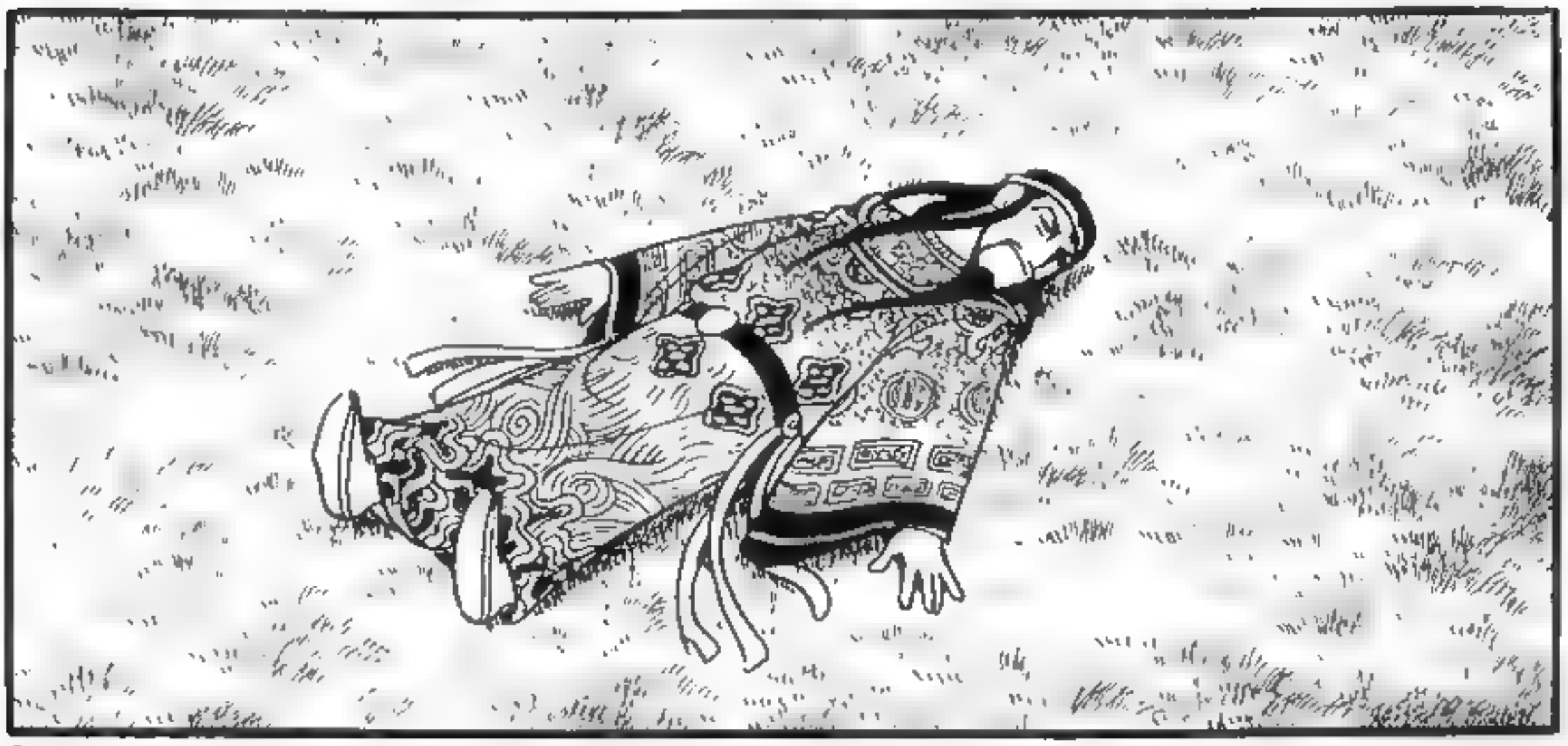
IF YOU'RE GOING TO SETTLE IT THROUGH A WRESTLING MATCH, THEN TAKE IT OUTSIDE!

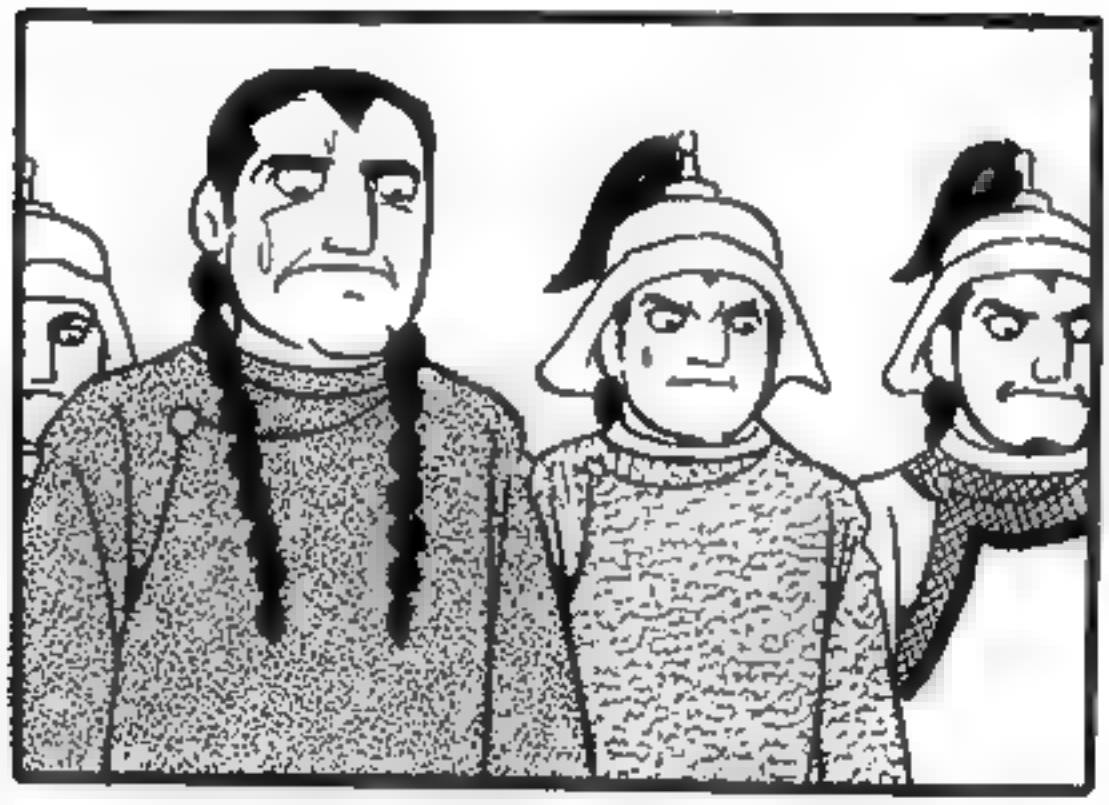
NGHHH!

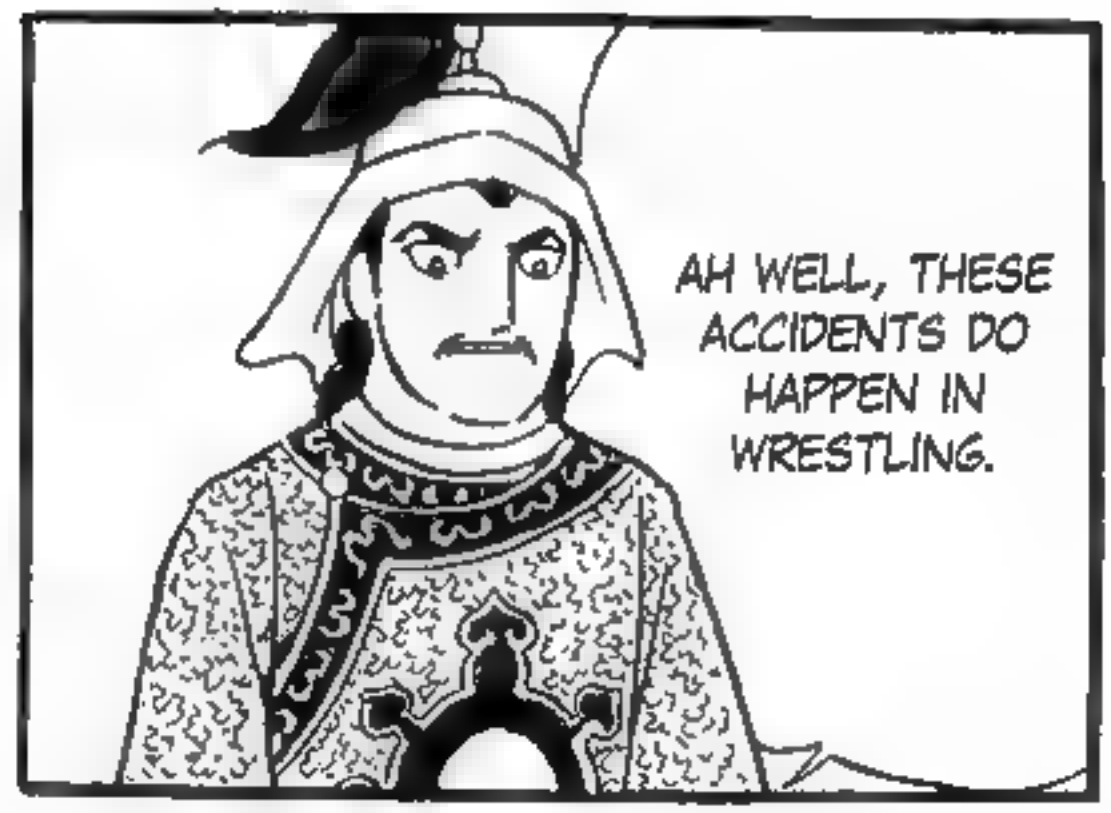
GOOD...

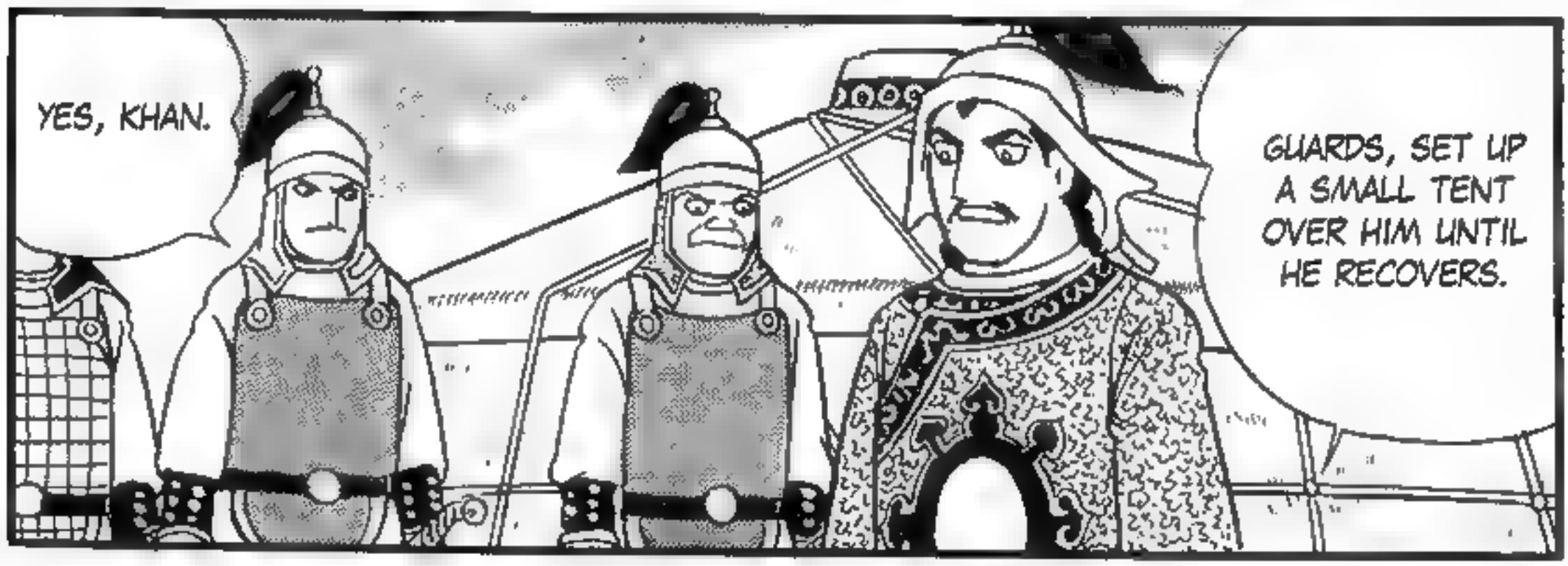
I KNOCKED OUT TEB-TENGRI DURING OUR BOUT AND HE NOW LIES UNCONSCIOUS, CHINGGIS KHAN.

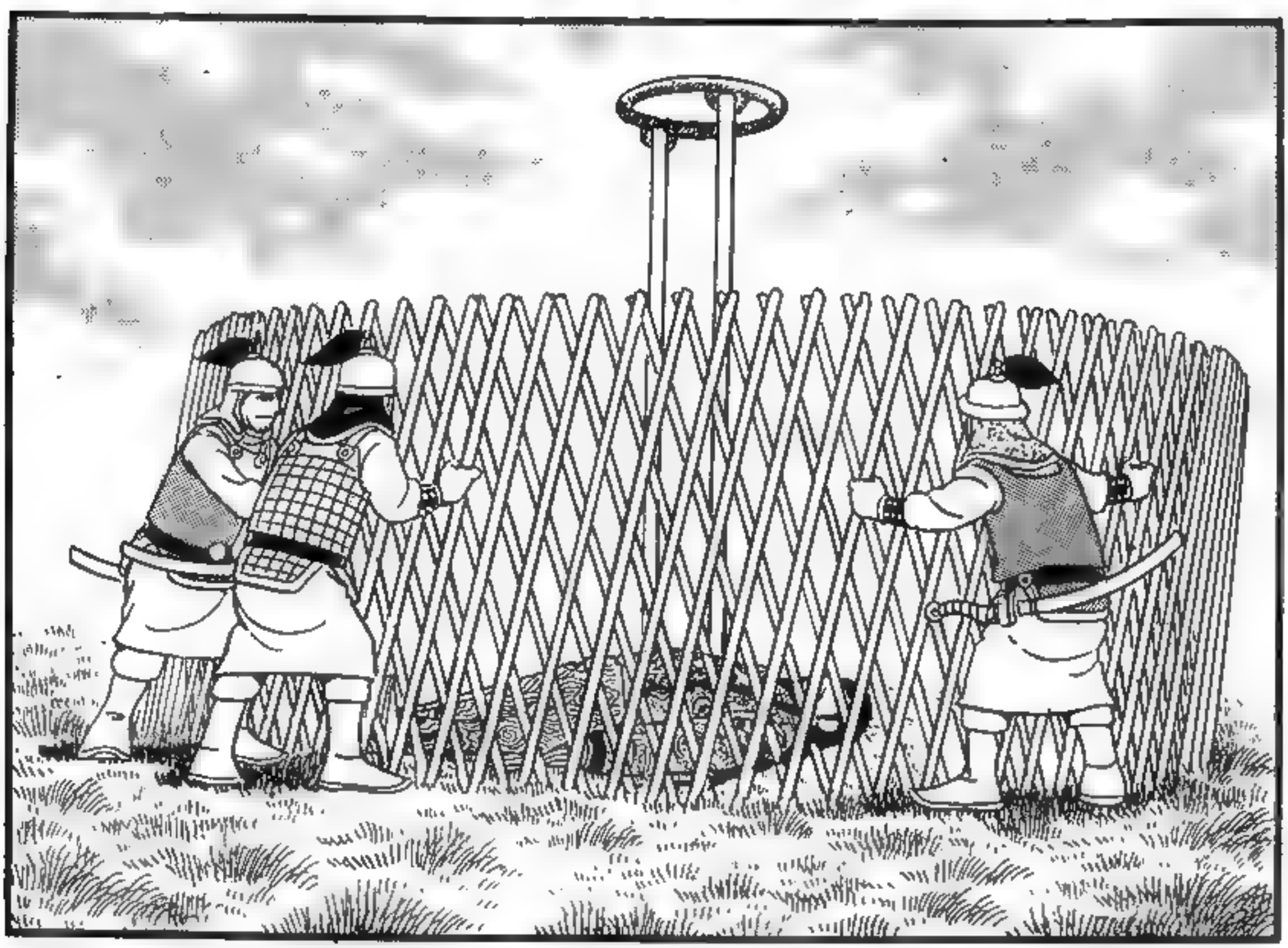
HMM, LET ME SEE.






AH WELL, THESE ACCIDENTS DO HAPPEN IN WRESTLING.


YES, KHAN.
GUARDS, SET UP A SMALL TENT OVER HIM UNTIL HE RECOVERS.



YES, KHAN.

I EXPRESSLY FORBID ANYONE TO ENTER THIS GER FOR THE TIME BEING NO MATTER THE CIRCUMSTANCES!

GUARDS WERE POSTED OUTSIDE TO BAR ANY ENTRY

CHINGGIS KHAN.

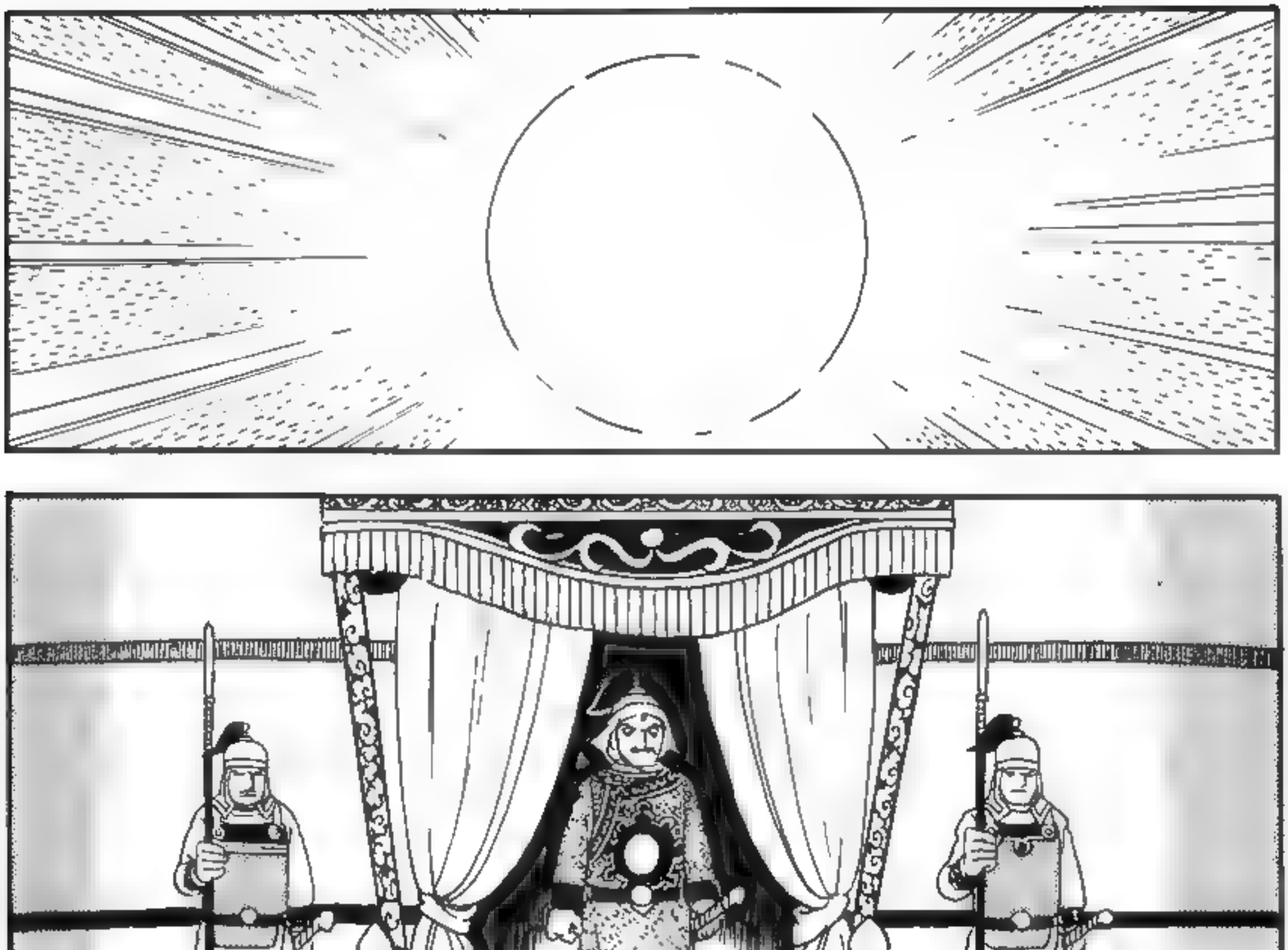
HOW DID IT GO?

AND YOU WEREN'T SEEN BY ANYONE?

WE MANAGED TO BURY THE BODY DEEP UNDERGROUND.

WELL DONE.

NO, KHAN. THE GUARDS MADE SURE OF THAT.



I CAN ONLY CONCLUDE THAT HE EVOKED THE WRATH OF THE GODS BY SHAMING MY BROTHERS AND EVEN FALSELY ACCUSING KASAR WITHOUT A SHRED OF EVIDENCE.

THIS MORNING, I AWOKE TO DISCOVER A MOST CURIOUS HAPPENSTANCE. THE SHAMAN TEB-TENGRI HAS DISAPPEARED FROM THE GER HE HAD BEEN LYING UNCONSCIOUS IN, EVEN THOUGH I HAD MY GUARDS POSTED OUTSIDE IT ALL NIGHT LONG.

Y-YES...?

MÖNGLIK!

AS THE FATHER, YOU ARE TO BE BLAMED FOR NOT RESTRAINING YOUR SONS' NEFARIOUS BEHAVIOURS!

YES, KHAN...

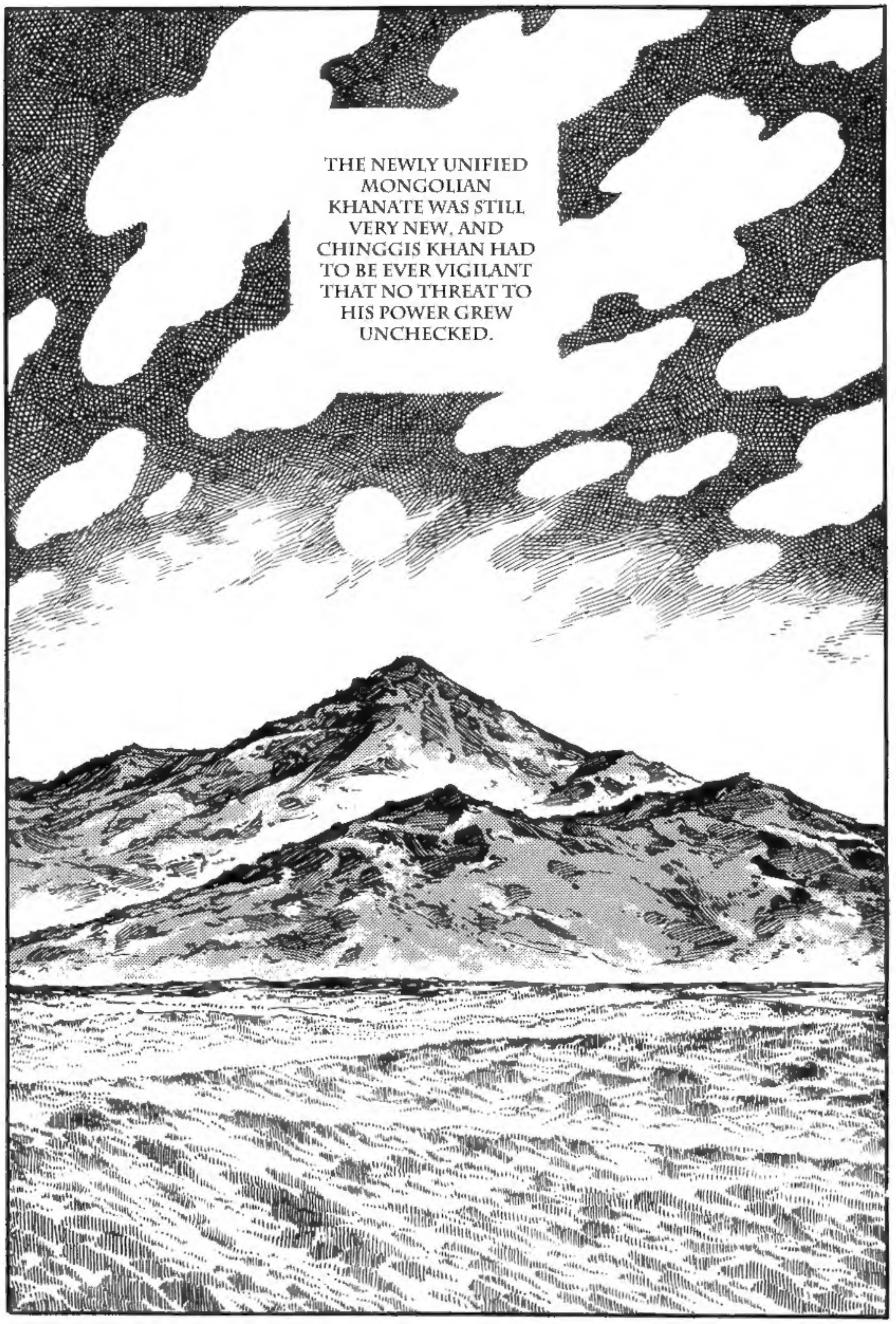
HOWEVER, ON THE ACCOUNT OF YOUR LATE FATHER'S LOYALTY, I WILL LEAVE YOUR FAMILY'S STATUS AND POSSESSIONS INTACT, AS LONG AS YOU REPENT AND SWEAR NOT TO OVERSTEP YOUR BOUNDS AGAIN.

THUS, BY FRAMING THE INCIDENT AS AN ACT OF DIVINE PUNISHMENT, CHINGGIS KHAN EXPLOITED THE VERY SUPERSTITIOUS NATURE OF HIS PEOPLE TO REMOVE A THREAT TO HIS POLITICAL POWER IN A CLEAN MANNER.

TO MURDER A SHAMAN WAS A SEVERE CRIME THAT WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BUY THE IRE OF HIS SUPERSTITIOUS SUBJECTS.

WITH TEB-TENGRI DEAD, MÖNGLIK'S FAMILY LOST MOST OF THEIR INFLUENCE. THE FOLLOWERS WHO RECENTLY FLOCKED TO THEM NOW RETURNED TO THEIR FORMER LANDS AND MASTERS,

FOR THEY HAD ORIGINALLY ONLY COME DUE TO THEIR DEVOTION TO THE GODS AND NOT OUT OF ANY LOYALTY TO MÖNGLIK'S FAMILY.


THE NEWLY UNIFIED MONGOLIAN KHANATE WAS STILL VERY NEW, AND CHINGGIS KHAN HAD TO BE EVER VIGILANT THAT NO THREAT TO HIS POWER GREW UNCHECKED.

Chinggis Khan Volume 4 -End-